Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Statement Condemns Terrorism

PM0308133689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Arab League Condemns All Forms of Terrorism"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A spokesman for the Arab League's general secretariat has made the following statement:

If it is true that Colonel William Richard Higgins, deputy commander in chief of the UN armistice observation forces in Palestine [as published], has been killed, then this act, which neither divine laws nor state laws condone, must be condemned. Here we must recall the consistent position taken by all our states on all forms of terrorism.

Although this is a painful development, it should be noted that the international community must tackle the causes of such acts. There can be no doubt that a prime cause which must be most firmly eliminated is Israel's repressive practices and acts of piracy, which are a form of organized state terrorism aimed at perpetuating the occupation of other states' territory and denying a whole nation its legitimate rights.

It is impossible to believe that the chain of violence and counterviolence can help to establish peace and security in the region.

Palestinian Affairs

Dissident Fatah Group Threatens U.S. Interests

NC0308203389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2020 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The Fatah-Uprising Movement has threatened to attack U.S. interests all over the world if Washington undertakes military action in connection with the crisis of the hostages detained in Lebanon.

In a statement it issued in Damascus, it said that the United States must realize that all its interests in the world will be at risk if it resorts to the military option. It added that this will not help the hostages' release but will complicate the problem further and might lead to a real catastrophe for them.

The Fatah-Uprising Movement added that the U.S. military massing in the Mediterranean Sea is not a mere maneuver to release the hostages but constitutes a grave threat to launch military action. It called on what it termed the nationalist Palestinians and Lebanese to take all the necessary measures to confront the possibility of a military adventure in Lebanon by the United States. It also called for the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and said that the United States must pressure Israel to release him.

Fatah 5th General Congress Opens in Tunis 3 Aug

LD0308145689 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Our commemoration of the onset of the new Hejira Year 1410 [1989] coincides this year with the convening of the Fifth General Congress of the Fatah Movement in the Conference Hall in Tunis. The opening session was attended by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. This morning President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had a meeting in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage before the opening of the Fatah congress with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

We now bring you some details of this distinguished event that took place today in Tunisia, a country which has always sided with the cause of right and justice, the cause of Palestine. The Conference Hall was the scene this morning of the opening session of the Fifth Congress of the Fatah Movement.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali presented an address at the beginning in which he said:

[Begin Ben Ali recording] It is a cause for pride to welcome you all and to open with you this historic congress which represents a decisive stage in the heroic march of your struggle. It is also an honor for Tunisia of the seventh of November to host today the congress of the Fatah Movement out of its faith in the sanctity of right and in defense of the causes of freedom and justice, based on the inevitability of self-determination for peoples, and in loyalty for its absolute commitment to the cause of our valiant Palestinian people. This cause is ours on the path of the one struggle and the common fate.

Tunisia, which since the historic change has been working to give substance to inter-Arab integration and the entrenching of the civilization identity of our glorious nation, is today totally proud to embody its principled commitment to the fateful causes of the nation, primarily the cause of our struggling Palestinian people. [end recording]

The head of state noted that in the position of the seven [industrialized] states in Paris and their acceptance of the idea of an international conference, there is evidence of the growing isolation of Israel on the international scene, and the justice of the Palestinian cause has won new positions inside Israel itself. He said that all these positive development which herald the imminent victory of right are primarily due to the jihad and steadfastness of the Palestinian people, the steadfastness of the stone-throwing children in particular, and their insistence to

face up with the most modest means to the military occupation equipped with the most advanced means of killing and extermination. [passage omitted]

[Begin Ben Ali recording] On this occasion, I am pleased to reaffirm our full support for the Palestinian leadership headed by the Brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] [loud applause], our full eagerness to support the independent nature of Palestinian decisionmaking, free from any influence or interference, and our blessing of all that the Palestinian people seek for themselves under the leadership of the PLO, its sole legitimate representative, its decisions and steps, as well as our absolute support for all its options on the path of the liberation of its homeland and the embodying of the establishment of its own independent state.

We also reaffirm to the brothers, the members of the Palestinian leadership, and all the members of the Fatah Movement conference, the excellent ties that link us with them, based on full trust and a particular respect.

On this great occasion too, I cannot but laud the work of officials of both sides [Tunisians and Palestinians] for preserving the strong fraternal relations, and the distinguished deep ties existing between our two fraternal peoples, seeking in this only the fulfillment of duty towards our sacred cause until such a time that the flag of Palestine flutters over the hills of liberated Jerusalem. [end recording]

'Arafat Addresses Congress

LD0308174189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 89

["Highlights" of speech by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at the opening session of the fifth congress of the Fatah Movement held at the Tunis Conference Hall on 3 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] A quarter century has elapsed since the Fatah Movement opened a new stage of the Palestinian nationalist struggle, a quarter century of struggle to launch and entrench the Palestinian national identity, for the freedom and independence of the Palestinian homeland and Arab dignity.

History has justified the first bullet fired on 1 January 1965. History has showed that it was not an adventure or a random action but an expression of the will of the Palestinian people for self-reliance and its dire need for formulating the nationalist project which accords with the conditions of pan-Arab action in that phase, and also to deter Zionist expansion in the body of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Brothers, with revolutionaries' modesty learned during our struggle's long march, we must affirm today that we are continuously required to absorb all that is presented by our national reality in its relations with [words indistinct] the pan-Arab reality and international situation. These relations are new, diverse and multisided in order to put them in the service of the objective we are seeking. Faith has gained this place of struggle and national credibility only because of its belief in the multiplicity of nationalist, pan-Arab, humanitarian, and revolutionary ideas. [passage omitted]

This great people is determined to continue on the road of sacrifices until the realization of its objectives of return, self-determination, and the setting up of the state of Palestine on the soil of the homeland with holy Jerusalem as its capital, where the Prophet Muhammad, prayers of God be upon him, had visited at night time, and the cradle of Jesus Christ, may the peace of God be upon him. [applause]

With the great popular intifadah [uprising], a new stage has opened up in our long struggle, and, with the creative revolutionary momentum and the recondite revolutionary steadfastness, this intifadah constitutes a turning point in the march of the conflict with the Israeli occupation. It also provides objective possibilities for the Palestinian people to realize what they could not since the 1947 partition decision: setting up its own independent state and protect its national (?fate) from perdition [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Today, on behalf of the revolution and on that of the intifadah, we affirm that the road the intifadah has been following [words indistinct], that peace begins with the state of Palestine, and that peace will be made by the state of Palestine based on freedom, justice, and equality.

The intifadah has moved the world conscience including [words indistinct]. The PLO has affirmed that any transitional measures must be linked in terms of time and results with the final settlement based on ending Israeli occupation, self-determination, the realization of our people's national independence, and the just resolution of the problem of Palestinian refugees in the context of [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Further on 'Arafat Speech

JN0308183289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Amid stringent security measures, the fifth congress of the Fatah Movement, the largest PLO faction, opened in Tunis today under the slogan of "intifadah" [uprising]. The congress' sessions will continue until 7 August. The opening session was addressed by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, whose speech was interrupted by applause several times.

In his speech, 'Arafat said there will be no road other than the one drawn up by the intifadah, which demonstrated that a just and right peace can only be achieved through the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Addressing the United States, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: How long will disregard for the Palestinian people's national rights be ignored? He added: The PLO has presented the bases of peace by launching the peace initiative and by issuing the declaration of independence. This initiative is the initiative of the intifadah and its program is the program of the intifadah.

Discussing the Israeli plan to hold elections in the occupied territories, 'Arafat said the aims of the Israeli initiative have been exposed; it aims at obstructing peace and deceiving world opinion.

The PLO chairman added that any provisional settlement should be part of an overall plan providing for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and self-determination for the Palestinian people.

Concluding his speech, Abu-'Ammar said dawn is coming, victory is imminent, and the Palestinian state is within a stone's throw.

The Tunisian president then delivered a speech. He greeted the pioneering policy being pursued by Yasir 'Arafat, stressing his support for any decision the Palestinians deem fit for their aims. He talked about the positive developments in the West regarding the Palestine question, referring in particular to the European states' stand at the Madrid summit and the signs of change in the U.S. position.

Some 1,050 Palestinian representatives are participating in the Fatah congress. The Fatah Central Committee and Revolutionary Council members will be elected at the concluding session. According to Palestinian sources, the conferees will also discuss the current Arab situation and the Lebanese tragedy.

Uprising's Priorities Listed

JN0408073489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Aug 89 pp 1, 16

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] AL-RA'Y has obtained from informed Palestinian sources the text of a call addressed by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [uprising] to the fifth Fatah general congress, which opened yesterday—Thursday—afternoon in Tunis. The call includes the following points:

—We consider the days during which the congress is convened days of distinguished militant escalation burning the earth under the feet of the invaders.

—We urge the conferees to make the political, organizational, and financial decisions required to step up the intifadah and enable it to stand fast in the face of hostile plots, especially the Shamir plan and the attempts of the U.S. Administration, which is continuing to procrastinate over the adoption of an even-handed position toward the conflict and is trying to use blackmail to gain all possible concessions in favor of the enemy.

—We call on the conferees to complete the formation of popular and specialized committees and to develop these committees in all areas through the participation of all anti-occupation national forces, nationalist and social figures, and representatives of social organizations and bodies.

—We call on all Fatah cadres meeting in this congress to renounce internal differences regardless of their motives and to avoid involving our people in disputes that only serve the enemy and open the way for its agents and henchmen to strike at the unity of our people.

—We call for rejection of any contacts with Israeli Government officials, and we stress that no single committed nationalist has met with any Israeli Government official.

—We warn against falling in the trap of accepting secret meetings under pressure, and we demand that the contents of any meeting held under pressure or through deception be announced.

—We stress the need for chasing the occupation's agents and henchmen to deter them from betraying their people. But we appeal to the strike forces and the popular committees to think carefully before making their judgments and not to resort to execution except in cases of public dealing with the enemy and then only after the charge of treason has been fully proved and the execution approved by the higher authorities.

—We view positively Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] position considering the 9th of each month a day of general strike to mark the beginning of the intifadah. We call on the movement to coordinate further with the Unified National Leadership in determining militant activities and comprehensive strikes.

New Committee Elected

LD0408042989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The Fatah Congress suspended the work of its first closed session at 1400 after about 3 hours. It resumed its work at 2000 to form the subcommittees.

An informed Palestinian source said that the morning session was devoted to the confirmation of membership of the congress. The percentage of the members present was 83.8 percent; that is, 980 members out of a total of 1159. It is expected that the remaining members, who were unable to attend the opening session for various reasons, will arrive in Tunisia in the coming hours. The same source said that during the first closed session of the congress, the committee of the fourth congress resigned and the leading committee of the fifth congress was elected.

Plan To Bomb Congress Revealed

JN0308181089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Well-informed political sources in Cairo have revealed to AL-WATAN the dimensions of an integrated plan prepared by the Israeli intelligence service to assassinate Palestinian leaders during the fifth congress of the Fatah Movement, expected to be held in Tunis any time now.

The sources said that Israel formed a 100-strong team and divided it into groups. The first group was composed of 35 military mercenaries and the second of 25 others. Both were commissioned to carry out the operation. The third group, consisting of 15 elements, would follow up the operation. The remaining group, of 25 pilots and their assistants, were commissioned to fly the aircraft that would take part in the operation and bombard the building where the Fatah Movement would meet.

The sources added that Israel was planning to use four aircraft to carry out its plan. One aircraft was scheduled to drop bombs while another would transport some members of the group from outside Tunisian territory. The mercenaries would then leave Tunisian territory in rubber boats that would be waiting for them in Tunisian waters.

The sources did not rule out Israel's obtaining classified information from Mosad agents, particularly about the building where the meetings would be held and how it could be stormed.

Fatah's congress, which was postponed more than once for security reasons, is expected to convene within the next 72 hours or perhaps later. All Palestinan sources are keeping secret the new date of the congress for security reasons.

Well-informed sources in Tunis stressed that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who met with Palestinian Ambassador Hakam Bal'awi yesterday, told the Palestinian leaders that Tunisia had mobilized all of its resources to provide a suitable atmosphere for the convening of the congress, indicating that Tunisia had contacted a European country, believed to be France, to guarantee security for Fatah's general congress.

U.S.-French Security Pledge Cited

PM0208091489 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 25-31 Jul 89 p 8

[Unattributed report: "U.S.-French Promise of Protection for Fatah Congress"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that the Palestinian leadership has received American and French assurances of protection for Fatah's fifth congress due to be held end of this current month and of pressure on Israel not to embark on any military adventures similar to the famous air raids on Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's headquarters in the area of Hammam al-Shatt.

The Palestinian leadership had taken extremely seriously Israeli Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon's threats to kill 'Arafat and other senior Palestinian officials. Palestinian circles maintain that the Israeli Security Council met recently and discussed the possibility of mounting an external military operation to divert attention from what is happening in the occupied territory.

AL-MAJALLAH has learned that U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau has conveyed these assurances to the Palestinian leadership. He also conveyed to Palestinian officials the U.S. Administration's wish that Fatah's congress will not adopt escalatory resolutions.

Palestinian sources did say that the congress would indeed adopt hard-line decisions and Palestinian officials say that these decisions would not be binding on the PLO, just as Israel's Likud says that its decisions are not binding on the Israeli Government.

Abu-Iyad Previews Agenda

PM0308081089 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 30 Jul 89 p 1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-MADINAH: Fatah Congress Will Discuss Important Issues"]

[Text] Tunis—In an exclusive interview with AL-MADINAH Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) emphasized that Fatah's fifth congress, scheduled to be held in Tunis in the first week of August, is being held amid significant conditions, namely, the continuing intifadah [uprising], our people's escalating struggle within the occupied territory, the political progress that emerged at the Palestine National Council [PNC] conference in Algiers, and the Palestinian political initiative that encountered major support in Europe and from the world public as a whole.

Abu-Iyad added that Fatah's fifth congress has a number of major tasks: First, the participants will assess the past stage from 1980 through the start of the congress. It includes several events such as the Beirut siege, the invasion of Lebanon, the split within Fatah, and division in the Palestinian arena. This, in addition to the Amman agreement and its background, the PNC meeting in Amman, the Palestinian national unity achieved in Algiers in 1987, the intifadah, and the Algiers resolutions: All these important events will be assessed.

Second, organizational issues and support for the movement from many young cadres will also be discussed.

Furthermore, Abu-Iyad emphasized that the U.S. failure to push the peace process forward and put pressure on Israel to take even one minor step toward a settlement

have driven the Palestinians to extremism. We will discuss that at Fatah's fifth congress, he said. Abu-Iyad pointed out that that situation also prompted every Palestinian to question the feasibility and benefit of the line which it is pursuing now.

Answering a question from AL-MADINAH on the possibility of reconsidering the PNC's Algiers resolutions, Abu-Iyad said that the PNC made its recent decisions in Algiers not for the sake of the United States or Israel, but for the sake of the Palestinian people, the Arab nation, and the world public. So what is proposed now is not the reconsideration of the objectives, as the objectives do not change. It is the means which need to be reexamined. What is intended by the means is our doing something practical that will make the United States realize that ignoring the Middle East problem, putting it on ice, or treating it as an ordinary problem cannot continue.

Envoy to Iraq Comments on Congress, U.S., Israel
NC3107201089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (MENA)—'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Iraq, has denied recent reports that the forthcoming Fatah congress will be convened under U.S. pressure to endorse the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions passed at the Algiers conference last year. He also denied that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat recently received a message from U.S. President George Bush on developments in the Palestinian issue.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Baghdad, Al-Ahmad said that the United States has absolutely nothing to do with the convening of Fatah's forthcoming congress. He described reports on this issue as rumors intended to create an atmosphere of confusion around the congress. He stressed that the PNC resolutions define the PLO's course and policy regardless of the fact that Fatah constitutes the backbone of the PLO's leadership.

Al-Ahmad went on: Fatah has found that it needs to rearrange its organizational situation in line with the magnitude of the challenges facing the Palestinian people in view of Israel's intransigence, U.S. stalling and refusal to convene an international conference, and U.S. insistence on the formula proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Al-Ahmad pointed out that the PLO has defined a clear and principled position on this formula—that is, the Israeli forces must withdraw before elections are held, and elections acceptable to the PLO must be part of a comprehensive settlement on the basis of negotiations at an internatinal conference. The Palestinian people must be left to define their choices and representatives.

In response to a question on the meetings held by the PLO Executive Committee in Baghdad which concluded yesterday, Al-Ahmad said that these meetings were routine and were confined to discussing administrative and financial issues and securing support for the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories.

More on Egypt's Efforts for 'Arafat's U.S. Visa
JN0308174489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Egypt has decided to hold intensive contacts with the U.S. Administration during the coming days to convince it to grant Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, an entry visa to New York to attend the UN General Assembly session in September and to deliver a speech before the Assembly on the Palestine question.

Informed political Egyptian sources noted that the peaceful course taken by 'Arafat and the PLO will make it easier for the U.S. Administration to overcome the pressures of the Jewish groups on American President George Bush aimed at making him refuse 'Arafat an entry visa to New York. The sources said that the headquarters agreement with regard to the United Nations and its organizations signed in 1947 calls for facilitating the entry of the representatives of member states, observers, and delegations participating in the UN meetings.

The sources said that Cairo will affirm to Washington that granting 'Arafat an entry visa to New York will make the United States regain its credibility in the Arab world.

AL-WAFD learned that if Washington refuses to allow 'Arafat to enter New York, President Mubarak will meet with 'Arafat before leaving for Washington to coordinate positions and to agree with him on a formula by which President Mubarak would convey the Palestinian position in his contacts with world leaders.

Cairo will also hold similar contacts with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to facilitate granting 'Arafat an entry visa to New York. Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan last year refused to grant 'Arafat an entry visa to New York as a result of Zionist pressures.

'Political Analysis' of Israel's Peace Plan
LD0308102789 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Jul 89

["Political Analysis" entitled "Israel's Crises"]

[Text] The Palestinian peace initiative preceeded the so-called Shamir plan. Perhaps Israel chose the line of this political initiative as a reaction to the Palestinian peace offensive. In the political conflict, one should have a political plan. It would be inventive to mold this plan in a way that gives partners, rivals, and enemies a role in introducing some modifications to this plan.

The Palestinian peace initiative was drafted deliberately, taking into consideration the suitable international situation and deriving momentum from the intifadah [uprising]. Since the beginning of the Palestinian peace offensive—or the Palestinian political exploitation of the intifadah—and to this very day, one notes that Palestinian moderation, in terms of the language of politics and diplomacy, has not had any negative effect on the intifadah, its continuation, complexity, or escalation. Clearly, the contrary is true.

On the other hand, Shamir's plan—if it can be considered an Israeli peace initiative adopted by the government and the Knesset—is defensive and is an implicit response to the Palestinian peace initiative. Shamir's plan is another defensive initiative because it is an attempt that is being encouraged by the United States in order to avoid the international choice that is gaining ever more acceptance; that is, the international conference on the Middle East.

The Palestinian side was realistic, because it made its initiative an Arab initiative. It also brought its Palestinian-Arab initiative and the international consensus for an international solution attended by all the parties closer together.

The Palestinian side put the focus on the peace offensive in a classic way in order to gain friends, to win the neutrality of the undecided, and to spread disunity among the enemies. The result was that the friends of the Palestinian peace policy appeareed to be almost integrated in the front that continually aims for establishing peace in this region where the most complicated and complex regional conflicts are to be found.

On the European side, Europe, which is the theoretical and historic homeland for the Zionist movement, has distanced itself from the position of hesitation, thanks to the efforts of the Palestinians, the Arabs, and international friends, and because it placed its own interests before anything else. We are saying that Europe has distanced itself from the position of hesitation. It suffices to note the statements published by regional and continental gatherings in Europe that clearly indicate the success of the Palestinian political campaign. Among the numerous examples available, we will give the following one: The ancient Zionist Labor Party found itself isolated in the international socialist congress because it went to the congress to defend a policy and position that Europe no longer accepts. Shortly thereafter, a crisis erupted inside the Israeli Government coalition. It is only reasonable for Europe and the United States to take sides with regard to this Israeli crisis. One major obstacle remains facing the peaceful Palestinian offensive: the policy of the United States. This is not an impossible obstacle to surmount considerating the previous situation, the most recent of which was Shultz's personal decision to open a fundamental dialogue with the PLO in addition to the fact that the international conference is based on an approximate international consensus. It is no longer a Palestinian, Arab or Socialist demand; it has become a European demand as well. Consequently, when embarking on its new peaceful competition with the new international Soviet policy and its policy towards West Europe, the United States will change its positions towards Palestine at a time that it deems suitable.

Following this general outlook, one should pay attention to the other differences between the Palestinian initiative and the Shamir plan. The PLO has not claimed to have provided a single unique initiative in which any article can be touched or explained in a flexible way. On the contrary, our Israeli enemy, and particularly its Likud side, has claimed that Shamir's plan is unique, and that it is the only plan on the tables, blatantly ignoring that the idea of an international conference was submitted even before the Israeli political coup in 1977 that brought the Likud party to power in Israel.

The PLO has done very well using the diplomacy of yes-no toward Shamir's initiative. It has accepted the principle of elections and worked effortlessly towards international acceptance of the logical conditions of any elections. These conditions are so logical that the United States saw eye to eye with some of them and was unable to reject the others. During the muscle flexing that followed the revelation of Shamir's plan last May, the initiative master went full blast and leaned towards the views of the extremists from his party. Suffice it to say, the biggest of these extremists is Ari'el Sharon, who said that during the past 100 years of democratic elections they have always led to the creation of a new political entity. Shamir will try to exercise traditional political astuteness and say that the government initiative is necessary for the government and the Likud's conditions are necessary for the Likud. If the Likud were a small partner or one of the partners in the governing coalition of Tel Aviv, such a game would have been accepted from Shamir for a relatively short time. However, the Likud is the party of the majority. One should not regard the Likud Party as a single party united around Shamir or around itself. There are sides within the party itself, and this rivalry is due partly to interests and partly to a racial-cultural rivalry. Likewise, one should not regard the Labor Party as one bloc that stands in opposition to the Likud; there are some in the Labor Party whose patience has been exhausted. If the Labor Party leadership continues its hopeless partnership with the Likud, it would not be surprising to see the emergence of wings inside the Labor Party.

The PLO will continue the dialogue with the wise people of the Labor Party and even with the less mad of the Likud Party. It is not only due to this dialogue that the Labor Party is threatened with a schism between its doves and its hawks—just as the Likud Party is threatened by a vertical schism between its grass-roots base of the mainly Eastern origin, and its

Moshe Amerav, ex-member of the Likud Central Committee, has predicted that others will follow him in his preference for dialogue with the Palestinians.

The Palestinian-Sefaradim [Oriental Jews] dialogue in Toledo Spain was a prelude to wider and deeper dialogues. At this point we can note that when the Israeli occupation authority resorts to dialogue with Palestinians who are not members of the PLO, it hears only the political assertions of the PLO, while in the Palestinian-Jewish dialogue, the other party adopts a tone different from that of its party. [sentence as heard] There remains the Israeli army which is supposed to be implementing the government policy without playing a political role. The question is what is the boundary between the security role and the political role in the conflict between the army and the people of the intifadah and its leadership? It is possible that if the political initiative fails to come forward from Israeli political circles, circumstances may gradually emerge to induce the initiative from military Israeli circles?

Algeria

Prime Minister Interviewed on National Economy
LD0308213689

[Editorial report] Algiers Domestic Service in French at 1215 GMT on 3 August carries a 1-hour interview with Algerian Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah by an unidentified correspondent. Merbah reviews the progress of the government's progress in implementing its annual plan. He discusses the growth of the gross domestic product and the improving figures for employment and housing, later noting the issue of low wages.

Merbah talks about the new taxes introduced by his government and notes that his administration plans to issue government loans to raise finance. He stresses that his administration has planned to improve its own efficiency but gives no real details.

Returning to economic issues, Merbah says the government will continue looking into measures to sustain the dinar and control the money supply. He says the state will not necessarily provide funds for investment by corporations, which must make their own investment plan.

Merbah's interview concludes with a discussion of religious tolerance and his assessment that the state must ensure that civil liberties are respected.

Egypt

Mubarak To Chair North-South Seminar Committee
NC0308184489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Paris, 3 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian Ambasador in Paris Ahmad Sidqi today notified the Council of Europe officially that President Husni Mubarak has accepted his nomination to the chairmanship of the honorary committee of the seminar to be held in Benin from 31 August to 2 September to discuss North-South solidarity and interdependence.

The seminar is organized jointly by the Council of Europe, the OAU, and the International Association of Social and Economic Development.

President Mubarak will deliver a speech to the seminar participants. [passage omitted]

Butrus Ghali Cited on Role in Africa
JN0308101789 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 1 Aug 89 p 5

[Excerpts] Cairo—Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that with President Mubarak's assumption of the OAU chairmanship, there are hopes for the possibility of reinvigorating Arab-African cooperation. In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD, Dr Ghali said that Mubarak's election to this post is linked to the vanguard role Egyptian diplomacy is undertaking on the African Continent.

On southern Sudan and Egypt's mediation efforts, Dr Ghali said Egypt is not undertaking a mediation but is offering its amicable services to the Sudanese Government, the Garang movement, and Sudan's neighbors such as Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda to settle this problem within an African framework and far from foreign interference.

On the Chadian-Libyan conflict, Dr Ghali said that Egyptian diplomacy has conducted contacts with the Libyan and Chadian delegations in Addis Ababa to contain the situation. The committee that was formed in 1977 under Gabonese President Omar Bongo was asked to pursue its work to reach a setlement of this conflict. Dr Ghali added: However, in view of Egypt's current chairmanship of the OAU, it will play a role in this committee.

On the visit President Mubarak intends to pay to Mauritania and Senegal as part of his efforts to contain their dispute, Dr Butrus Ghali said that he has no knowledge of such a visit. He added: However, the OAU summit adopted a resolution that President Mubarak undertake such a mediation. He added: President Mubarak decided to form a six-member ministerial committee comprising the foreign ministers of Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Niger, Togo, Tunisia, and Egypt. The task of this committee is to counsel President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

On the disagreement between Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro, and the possibility of settling their disagreement through the OAU rather than the United Nations, Dr Ghali said that there is a close relationship between the OAU and the United Nations and that during their meetings in Paris and Addis Ababa, President Mubarak and Javier Perez de Cuellar discussed the importance of cooperation between the two organizations to settle the Western Sahara problem. Dr Ghali denied reports that the OAU has washed its hands of this problem. He said that the OAU and the United Nations hold constant contacts as well as exchanging documents and carrying out consultations for the attainment of a speedy settlement of this issue.

On Ethiopia and its differences with the Tigray and Eritrean revolutionaries and the mediation role Egypt has been asked to play in this respect, Dr Ghali said: Speaking about mediation is not accurate because the disagreement between the Ethiopian Government and the Eritrean revolutionaries is an Ethiopian domestic affair. Therefore, it is inadmissible for the OAU to interfere in this state of affairs. Dr Ghali said: All that there is with respect to this problem is that Ethiopia has submitted a new initiative for settling the issue, an

initiative that Egypt has supported out of its belief that the confrontation between Ethiopia and Eritrea can only be settled through dialogue and negotiations.

Interviewed on Republic's Role

PM0108154089 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Jul 89 pp 28-29

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] What will be the nature of Egypt's future role in Africa in view of Mubarak's chairmanship of the OAU, since he is expected to be unanimously elected at the summit to be held at the end of the month?

[Ghali] Without any exaggeration, it can be said that for the past 25 years Egypt has been anxious to emphasize its belief in and adherence to the OAU—that great African grouping which truly represents a prelude to a new and crucial phase in the history of the peoples of our great continent and in the march of its heroic struggle for freedom, independence, unity, and progress. Such priorities have always been high on Africa's agenda over the past 25 years. Egypt's practices and activities within the organization have always been characterized by its tireless efforts to strengthen its capabilities, enhance the effectiveness of its performance in the face of Africa's problems, and maintain cooperation and cohesion among all African states in the various fields for the sake of the common interests of the peoples of the continent as a whole. And if Egypt assumed the chairmanship of the organization's first session in 1964, shouldering its African responsibility at that important time when African unity was born, it is now responding to Africa's unanimous desire for Egypt to assume the leadership of joint African action 25 years after its birth, under developed conditions similar to a rebirth—the huge challenges posed by the difficult economic conditions and the debt problem, collective African mobilization in the crucial battle against the racist regime in South Africa, and the need to emphasize our identity and strengthen South-South cooperation. Probably these conditions and problems will determine the strategy of common African action in the stage ahead, which will be launched by the 25th OAU summit under Egypt's chairmanship and led by President Mubarak, who will shoulder the responsibility for determining the features of Africa's course for overcoming the crisis and finding horizons for a kind of progress that will satisfy our peoples' aspiration to a better future.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you not believe that Egypt's return to the Arab League and the emergence of new horizons for Arab solidarity constitute a suitable opportunity for the resumption of Arab-African cooperation, especially following the setback suffered by the experiment in recent years?

[Ghali] Egypt's belief in the importance of strengthening South-South solidarity in practice embodies its vision of how vital and fundamental Arab-African cooperation is. It was Egypt's idea to hold the first summit conference between the Arab and African worlds. Cairo embraced its meetings in March 1977. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak fully believes in the urgent need to build bridges capable of overcoming obstacles, of seeking prospects for cooperation, and in pursuing this with firm strides. And while the 1977 Cairo summit laid down the foundations of multidimensional cooperation among our peoples, working to translate the Cairo charter's program into a reality in the daily life of our peoples will always be the objective to which President Mubarak will direct his attention during his chairmanship of the OAU.

[AL-HAWADITH] How would you assess the Madrid declaration issued by the European summit regarding Western political backing for the Palestinian cause at this important stage, which is witnessing the Palestinian peace offensive?

[Ghali] The new and courageous step taken by the EC in the form of a new declaration on the Middle East is more developed than the Venice declaration issued 9 years ago. It represents one of the most important results of the changes caused by the natural combination between the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] movement inside [the occupied territories] and the Palestinian peace offensive under the banner of moderation and realism outside. This new step, which is welcomed by Egyptian diplomacy, should encounter support from all international forces wanting security, stability, and peace in the Middle East. This, because it represents an example of the ability to move stances on international issues in the right direction, in terms of an objective understanding in touch with developments and changes. Through its new declaration the EC has taken a positive and advanced step, since the declaration openly stated the need for the PLO's full participation in the peace process. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] But despite all the positive stances adopted by many sides, the Israelis will continue to respond negatively to the various peace efforts. So how do you assess the Israeli reaction represented by the Shamir plan for elections in the occupied territories?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly, the most notable aspect of international interest in imparting an impetus to the peace process and exploiting all recent positive changes—even before the EC issued its recent Madrid declaration—is the important meeting between French President Francois Mitterrand and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. It was held in Paris on the eve of President Mitterrand's visit to Washington to meet with U.S. President George Bush. But regrettably, while that meeting and its results—especially 'Arafat's statement that the PLO charter's stipulation of the need to destroy Israel has been overtaken by events—enjoy the interest of all those

concerned with the future of peace in the Middle East, Israel still refuses to respond to all these positive changes on the Palestinian side. Today angry cries come from Israel, condemning the European position adopted in Madrid. The appropriate thing is for the Israelis to reach the correct conclusion, namely, that their attempts and pressures vis-a-vis the EC will not turn the clock back and will not prevent the European states from continuing their earnest moves to boost the peace process in the Middle East, whose security and stability constitute a major part of the EC's priorities and interests, for geographical, political, economic, and security reasons. Credibility in establishing peace cannot be proven by presenting tactical ideas and proposals designed to play for time, such as that recently presented by Shamir, namely, the idea of holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Such credibility can be achieved by responding spontaneously to every serious international move aimed at reducing the points of disagreements between the two parties to the conflict and helping to speed up the convening of the international peace conference, which enjoys the approval of all international parties and forces except Israel. We believe that the Shamir election plan is no more than a political and propaganda move designed to secure a victory for Palestinian leaderships with which Israel can negotiate, but it will fail to achieve this, just as it has failed in the past. During my recent contacts with Israel's leaders I explained the impossibility of the attempt. That is, unless it is amended and given international guarantees.

[AL-HAWADITH] In your view, what could the continuing Israeli escalation of the repression and torture operations against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories lead to?

[Ghali] The massacre of children and teenagers is continuing without restraint in the occupied territories. Reports from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip indicate that the Israeli authorities are now faced with three measures as the only way out of the crisis. According to the Israeli chief of staff, these measures are: starvation, expulsion, and physical elimination. Israel is not even content with its repressive institutions pursing such a three-sided policy: In fact, any observer can see a large-scale incitement campaign among the Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank. The occupation authorities probably want to turn the settlers into a "people's army" so as to increase the level of repression imposed day and night by the regular forces on the people of the intifadah. This phenomenon recently assumed real specific form when the Israeli Cabinet permitted the establishment of two new settlements in the West Bank, thus continuing and intensifying the settlement policy, even though it is the crux of the problem. It is no longer possible to keep silent about such a situation, merely issue statements of condemnation, just express feelings of sympathy, or just admire the power and steadfastness of the rising Palestinian generations. There must be an urgent international intervention to stop these terrible massacres. [passage omitted]

It is not enough just to call on the Israeli authorities to quickly cease the repressive measures in the occupied territories and to adhere to the Geneva convention on the protection of civilians during times of war. This is not enough. The EC is required to protect the human rights being violated in broad daylight through the ugliest means of repression and torture. To remain silent about such crimes encourages Israel's leaders to scorn international resolutions and condemnations, which they arrogantly describe as mere ink on paper. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] In view of the changes which have occurred in Sudan since the revolution for national salvation, how do you see the future of Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Ghali] I believe no one was surprised by the military coup in Sudan, as a result of which the Army seized power. There were strong indications that it would happen, especially after the terrible ruptures which recently assailed Sudan both physically and mentally. Sectarian grudges and ideological and partisan concerns resurfaced, which is why a comprehensive national vision disappeared and personal, sectarian, regional, and partisan considerations were given priority. Unfortunately, the Sudanese leadership toppled by the [new] regime could not separate its personal aims from the country's lofty interests. Obviously, the Egyptian people are anxiously watching what is happening in Sudan and hope that it will overcome its crisis peacefully through its sincere sons. Only the Sudanese people who can settle their problems—and first and foremost the problem of the South—by establishing peace through dialogue. Only they can work for their prosperity and stability without interference from any quarter. We welcome the new Sudanese leadership's announcement of its intention to adopt a new organizational overview of relations between the two countries within the framework of Nile valley unity, in response to the wishes of both countries' peoples and the need for special and resolute cooperation between the two fraternal countries that represent an integrated geographical extension and a strategic strength.

[AL-HAWADITH] Following the restoration of relations between Egypt and Lebanon, what is Egypt's assessment of the role being played by the tripartite committee, which has set a 6-month deadline for resolving the Lebanese crisis?

[Ghali] It is probably impossible to set a deadline for resolving the Lebanese problem, which embodies a multifaceted, complex, and explosive crisis. Despite the foregoing and the justifications given to justify the eruption of the present Lebanese crisis, which is approaching its 15th year, in fact the crisis is political in its essence and nature, and obviously in terms of a solution to its chronic complications and the tragic vacuum resulting from its continuation. So if anyone were able at first to convince himself or any party to the

conflict of the feasibility of the dialogue of arms, nobody in the world with any sense is not convinced of the futility of that bloodthirsty method. Nor is anyone not convinced of the fatal and deep chasms into which that method is dragging not only fraternal Lebanon—its present and future homeland and people—but the Arab nation as a whole. Perhaps the experience of fighting in recent years proves that a military settlement in favor of one party against another is unattainable, and indeed impossible. Therefore, a formula acceptable to all parties—a formula that preserves Lebanon's unity and territory and restores its honorable role within the Arab family—can only be realized through these new foundations, by making political and constitutional reforms through calm dialogue alone.

Ghali Welcomes 'Urgent' Summit on Lebanon

NC0308151589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Egypt welcomes the idea of holding an Arab summit to settle the Lebanese issue, said Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, commenting on Iraq's call to hold an urgent Arab summit to handle the Lebanese issue.

Dr Ghali said: Arab Lebanon is now faced with the threat of losing its national characteristics, sovereignty, independence, national unity, and territorial integrity. He stressed the need to avert the current deterioration, through quick and absolutely decisive action, which leaves no room for favors or compromises.

Editorial on Israeli Responsibility for Higgins

JN0308185289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Shamir To Be Held Responsible for Higgins' Blood]

[Text] Egypt was in the forefront of nations that condemned the piratical kidnapping of Lebanese Shiite leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two colleagues from inside Lebanese territory. Similarly, Egypt lost no time in condemning the execution of Colonel Higgins: Egypt disapproves of abductions whichever party carries them out and equally abhors the killing of innocent people under any circumstances.

While the direct responsibility for the tragedy of the American officer must be laid at the door of Israel, which typically acts as a gangster although it is officially registered as a member of the United Nations and the international community, it is not possible to exonerate Washington from blame for forfeiting Higgins' blood: The American Administration and Congress have so pampered and indulged the Tel Aviv rulers thay they have spoiled them. The Americans have allowed the Israeli leaders to believe that they can get away with the ugliest crimes and flout international norms and conventions with impunity as long as they are under the protection of the U.S. flag.

President Bush and his administration are right to feel outraged and saddened by the murder of the American officer to avenge Israel's piratical act. The United States would do well to undertake a general reassessment of its approach to Israel's antics that have drawn wordwide condemnation. American officials should realize that the crimes of their ally are likely to endanger the lives of American citizens as well as U.S. interests. The Americans must also understand that it is the rulers in Tel Aviv who initiate terrorist actions that set in motion a vicious circle of retaliation.

One of the dire consequences of Israel's latest crime may be a resurgence of the wave of abducting Americans and others in Lebanon. Indeed, the Tel Aviv rulers now fear retaliation against their embassies and subjects around the world.

But world opinion realizes who the primary culprit is behind the climate of terror that threatens to get out of hand.

Libya

Sudan's Al-Bashir Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi 3 Aug

EA0308170589 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Casablanca, Libyan Jamahiriyah—Official [words indistinct] talks have begun here at the Freedom Hall between the Sudanese side led by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, leader of the national salvation revolution, and the Libyan side led by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. In an address at the beginning of the session, Lt Gen 'Umar conveyed the gratitude and appreciation [words indistinct] the leaders of the Libyan revolution and to the Libyan people, who have always stood by their brothers in Sudan. Lt Gen 'Umar (?said) that the national salvation revolution was an inevitable result of the deterioration and the economic problems [words indistinct] loss of Sudan's identity. He stressed that political detainees in Sudan would receive a fair trial. He said they had perpetrated [words indistinct] which was why they were facing legal interrogation.

Meanwhile, Lt Gen 'Umar also held a meeting behind closed doors with Col al-Qadhdhafi that lasted two hours. The members of the Sudanese delegation held meetings with their Libyan counterparts (?yesterday), during which the development of bilateral cooperation and the strengthening of links were discussed. Following the talks, the Libyan leader gave a dinner in honor of Lt Gen al-Bashir, which was followed by a display of popular [words indistinct].

Praises Support for Sudan

EA0308203089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Casablanca, Libyan Jamahiriyah, 3 Aug—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, has commended the Libyan Jamahiriyah's support for the Sudanese people and the Sudanese Armed Forces and its belief in the unity of aims and destinies. He expressed happiness at visiting the Jamahiriyah and meeting the leader of the Libyan revolution [words indistinct]. In press statements made at the guest palace in al-Bayda city, Lt Gen 'Umar said that during his visit to the Jamahiriyah, he would explain the developments that have occurred in Sudan and appropriate ways of developing cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He added that the leaders of the Sudanese salvation revolution believe in Arab unity. He said that the visit is an opportunity to benefit from the long experience of the leaders of the Libyan revolution in confronting big challenges. His excellency praised the kind treatment which Sudanese citizens in the Libyan Jamahiriyah are receiving.

Meanwhile, the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has confirmed in statements to the press the depth of relations between the Sudanese and Libyan peoples. He said: We are one country, no matter how much the political systems differ. [passage indistinct]

Visits Agriculture Center

LD0408025789 Tripoli JANA in English 1920 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Al-Marj, Hannibal [August] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly (?Sudan), accompanied by Col. Abu-Bakir Yunis Jabir visited this morning the agricultural centre in al-Marj touring its various sections and witnessing the model farms for the cooperatives. He was given detailed accounts on the successful experiments in this regard.

Also accompanying Al-Bashir were his accompanying delegation and the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison.

Jabir Meets Sudanese Deputy Chief of Staff

LD0308210689 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Al-Bayda', Hanibal [August] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu-Bakir Yunis Jabir met yesterday afternoon with General Hasan M. Hasan al-Imam, deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces in sisterly Sudan.

Present at this meeting were a number of the officers in the Armed Forces in Great Al-Jamahiriyah and sisterly Sudan.

'Ubayd Kidnapping Said Diversion From 'Savagery'

LD0308212489 Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—After the flagrant helplessness afflicted upon the Zionist military establishment in facing the children of stones and the Palestinian generation of anger in its onraging people's revolution and after the frequent confessions reaffirming the incompetence in foiling this revolution and the failure of the political proposal (?put) forward by terrorist Yitzahak Shamir in front of the strong resolve to the Palestinian people's resolution for the liberation of Palestine from the sea to the river and from the south to the [word indistinct]...after all these scandals, (?the) Zionist terrorist mentality has taken another road in a bid to black out the intifadah [uprising] and divert the attention elsewhere through a bloody theatrical scheme where Lebanon has been set as a stage for this.

In the beginning of this scenario, the Zionist soldiers abducted 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, one of the leaders of Hizballah and two of his kinsmen last Friday.

The next step was the reaction of the clandestine Lebanese groups. The reply came last Monday in the operation of hanging Col. William Higgins, one of the US hostages in Lebanon. Then, the threat to kill more hostages including the US national, Joseph Cicippio, and the envoy of the Anglican British Church, Terry Waite.

The grand objectives of the scenario concocted by the Zionists on the basis of action and reaction aims at wrecking the intifadah through destabilizing the political balances brought about by the people's intifadah in occupied Palestine thereby forcing the international and Arab media organs to focus on the zone of tension (?created by) the Zionist organs neglecting what takes place in occupied Palestine in terms of heroic operations that are remarkable.

Therefore, the abduction by the Zionists of 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the reactions that ensured represent one of the Zionist alternative to lessen the internal pressure and export the encounter out of occupied Palestine and divert the attention away from the unlimited savagery practiced by the Zionists against the children of the Palestinian Arab generation of anger.

Chadian President's Envoy Arrives 4 Aug

LD0408093989 Tripoli JANA in English 0822 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr Mahamat Korroum, the minister of the presidium and personal envoy of the Chadian President Habre, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Commenting to JANA, Mr Korroum said that he had a letter from President Habre to the leader of the revolution on the bilateral existing relations between the two countries. This, he added, came as a way for contact and continuation of meetings especially following the meeting held in Bamako between the leader of the revolution and President Habre.

He continued that this meeting was positive and had to continue to consolidate the existing relations between the two countries. The proof, he pointed out, was the readiness of Chad and President Habre to promote these relations that should continue and deepen further. This visit was an opportunity given to them to realize the aspirations of the Libyan Arab and Chadian peoples, he pointed out.

Notes 'Positive' Ties

LD0308122589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1041 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Aug (JANA)—The Chadian foreign minister has stated that relations between Libya and Chad are more positive now. He added that there are no political or ideological differences between Libya and Chad.

In an interview with the Sudanese Armed Forces paper, Acheikh Ibn-Oumar stated that his country values Libya's role and support to Chad. He stressed his country's willingness to establish better relations with the Jamahiriyah.

In addition, Mahamat Karroum, who holds the post of minister of state, described as positive the talks that took place during the Bamako African minisummit and said that progress has been made on existing differences following OAU mediation.

In a statement to journalists in Ndjamena yesterday, Karroum said that there is political willingness on both sides to solve their differences, and that relations are going through a positive phase that may lead to significant developments in the near future.

USSR's Katushev Discusses Bilateral Relations

LD0308141989 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The Arab Libyan-Soviet joint committee held a meeting this morning at the national petroleum establishment in Tripoli, which was attended by the brother secretary of the People's Committee for Petroleum, and Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister of foreign economic relations.

During the meeting they discussed ways and means to promote and strengthen various aspects of bilateral cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union, in order to serve the mutual interests of the Arab Libyan and Soviet peoples.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport had a meeting this afternoon with Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister of foreign economic relations. During the meeting, attended by the Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, they discussed and examined various aspects of increasing and promoting bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

Basic People's Congresses To Meet 5 Aug

LD0308222589 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the basic people's congresses throughout the municipalities of Great al-Jamahiriyah will start hold their regular first session for the year 1989 next Saturday on 3 Muharram 1399 corresponding to 5 Hannibal 1989.

These masses will be studying and discussing as well as following up the local resolutions, apart from studying the local matters, the question of the people's committees at the local level besides drawing up the items on the agenda of the second regular session for this year.

Sudan

RCC Member Interviewed on 'Stable' Situation

PM0308100689 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 31 Jul 89 pp 18-19

[Interview with Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, "deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council," by Salih Zaytun in Doha; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Zaytun] Now that matters have stabilized, how do you view the present situation under the revolution?

[Salih] The situation is stable now and it has been shown that the desire for a change was not just ours, but of every Sudanese citizen, especially after things came to a head.

[Zaytun] Do you believe that the Armed Forces are capable of controlling the situation, in terms of its ability to rule?

[Salih] The Armed Forces are close-knit and compact in all operational fields, and we hope the situation will improve, that stability will prevail, and that economic infrastructures will be revitalized.

[Zaytun] Have you encountered any cooperation from the Sudanese masses in accepting military rule as an alternative to democratic rule?

[Salih] The Sudanese people are satisfied with the fact that power is in the hands of the Army. And they are optimistic that many achievements will be made. In fact,

they are cooperating with us in salvaging Sudan. As for military rule, we are not interested in power, but a force was needed to make the change and salvage Sudan from the government of "false democracy" which destroyed the meaning of democracy, since it was dominated by sectarianism and splittism. It exploited all the nation's resources to deepen splittism, destroy the national economy, and preoccupy the country with a destructive war in the South.

[Zaytun] Do you intend to hand over power to the civilians when you are satisfied with the situation?

[Salih] When we have succeeded in resolving the urgent and pressing problems we will draw up the new constitution to enable the Sudanese people to participate with their creative role in power, through freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, and freedom of the press and also through the independence of the judiciary and all the principles required by civilized democracy, without backsliding or repeating the previous sectarian experiment.

[Zaytun] Does this mean that you will keep the field of government as the province of the military?

[Salih] We will certainly continue to observe the situation, and will indeed work to direct the desired democracy to suit conditions in Sudan, where we cannot dream of applying an ideal liberal democracy because half the Sudanese people still suffer umder the shackles of illiteracy.

[Zaytun] How did you find the stances regarding your revolution held by the Arab states which you have visited?

[Salih] Those positions were made known before our arrival in the Arab states that we visited. We sensed in them a cordial fraternity, sincere support, and a belief in our logical justification for change. In fact the objective of our tour is to express thanks for the positive initiatives which Sudan received during those difficult days. We are convinced that the Arab brothers' support for us will continue, because Sudan's conditions and security concern them.

[Zaytun] Have you requested any specific economic aid from the Arab brothers?

[Salih] We are primarily seeking moral support. With regard to rebuilding the economy, Sudan will depend on its own sons. Undoubtedly we aspire to the brothers' support in order to salvage Sudan, which it plans to implement its program in stages during which it will need urgent aid. Besides, the Arab brothers can help us by means of demarches vis-a-vis the IMF to reschedule our huge debts or grant us loans to enable us to stand on our own feet.

[Zaytun] But it has been noted that you are more interested in relations with Egypt than with anyone else. It has been noted that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's first visit outside the country was to Egypt.

[Salih] Egypt has a special status among the Sudanese. Besides, Sudan's position concerns Egypt. We sent delegations to all states, just as we sent a delegation to Egypt. But brother Al-Bashir's visit to Egypt was urgent, since it preceded Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's foreign visit the following day.

[Zaytun] Do you intend to restore the joint defense treaty between Egypt and Sudan?

[Salih] We of the salvation revolution have urgent priorities. To be frank with you, the question of the treaty with Egypt is not among those priorities. What concerns us now is rescuing Sudan from its economic collapse and rebuilding its infrastructures. When we have achieved these priorities, then we can think about that question, whether with regard to relations with Egypt or with any of the brothers concerned about Sudan.

[Zaytun] Even Libya?

[Salih] Libya is a fraternal state and a good neighbor. Our delegation went there and met with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who heard a positive assessment of the revolution that we launched. Our delegation stayed there 3 days, whereas our delegation to Egypt stayed for a few hours.

[Zaytun] Probably the length of the visit to Libya was attributable to the difficulty of the negotiations.

[Salih] (laughing) Actually it had to do with brother Col al-Qadhdhafi's schedule. All that happened was that after the delegation's visit we sensed absolute support from Libya, and Libyan officials expressed their conviction that the former regime was racist, tribalist, sectarian, and a waste of time.

[Zaytun] As you said, one of the pressing priorities is the problem of the south. Have you received any information to the effect that a reconciliation with John Garang can be achieved?

[Salih] Right from the outset we addressed a brotherly appeal for cooperation to Garang. We dispatched an envoy to Ethiopia, where he handed a message to Garang. It contained a peace initiative, and we are still awaiting a reply. But for our part, we have taken positive steps. We have been anxious to maintain the truce, since no battles have been reported in the operational areas. Besides, the amnesty is still in force and the international relief lines, known as the lifeline, have resumed their activities.

[Zaytun] Why do you think Garang's response has been late in coming?

[Salih] We appreciate the other side's position and believe that the matter is not so simple. It requires further negotiations, contacts, and thorough consideration. Probably the other side needs more time to test the new regime's intentions and ability to survive. And I believe that after all that has been achieved, the time has come for the other side to respond. We await a positive response that would achieve peace for Sudan as a whole.

[Zaytun] What if the reply includes a rejection of peace and continuation of war?

[Salih] War will not defeat the Sudanese Army, nor will its continuation achieve a victory for the rebel movement if its objective is to liberate Sudan. We hope that Garang will understand the situation well and hasten to make contacts and negotiate to achieve peace, especially since we are all military officers and both sides are aware of the calamities of war. So the appropriate thing is to give priority to higher interests and to reach an understanding in order to contain the crisis.

[Zaytun] What about the tribal disputes in the Darfur region?

[Salih] A Revolution Command Council member supervised a reconciliation among the tribes of the region in the early days of the salvation revolution. We ascertained that the former regime was behind the kindling of the tribal and racial conflict, because its only concerns were the interests of the ruling tribes and the parties concerned. That era has now gone forever.

Members of Al-Mahdi Government Quarrel in Jail

EA0108212389 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 1 Aug 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Ministers from the overthrown Sudanese coalition government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi have been showing their true feelings for each other during their time in Kobar Prison, according to some released detainees. Squabbles have broken out between southerners and northerners, although the former prime minister himself is not involved. The chief culprit appears to be his former minister of cabinet affairs. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

[Begin Taban recording] Relations between southerners and their northern compatriots, never good under the rule of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, don't appear to have improved, even in prison. Recently released detainees are talking about an attemnpt to segregate southerners in prison. This caused a lot of bitterness. According to those now released from prison, a former minister of cabinet affairs, Salah 'Abd-al-Salam, suggested that southerners should be segregated from northerners. They were all living together in two sections of the prison. But 'Abd-al-Salam said southerners' habits were different from those of northerners. He said that when northerners were praying, for example, southerners were not doing so. This, he argued, made their separation necessary.

'Abd-al-Salam took his complaint to the prison authorities, who apparently agreed to separate the two groups. When the southerners heard of this, they were furious. They wondered why 'Abd-al-Salam had not suggested segregated sittings of the cabinet when they were in power. Noticing that this bitterness had almost reached the point of violence, the prison authorities then suggested that segregation should be on a voluntary basis. They said that any northerner was free move to the part of the prison where northerners were in a majority. The same applies to southerners. 'Abd-al-Salam and several northerners therefore moved away from the section where southerners were in a majority. However, some northerners, including the National Islamic Front MP [member of parliament], Mahdi Ibrahim, refused to move and stayed with the southerners. The prisoners at the section where northerners were in a majority included the former prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Al-Mahdi suggested that leading politicians from amongst the southerners should move to where he was living and some, like former Supreme Council member, Dr Pacific Ololik, and Ellie Abba Sorur, agreed to Al-Mahdi's suggestion. [end recording]

Tunisia

Higgins' Death, 'Ubayd Abduction Condemned

LD0308123589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made the following statement:

The Tunisian Government learned with extreme shock the news of the execution of the U.S. officer Richard William Higgins, which was a corollary of the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two brothers by Israeli forces. While condemning both these actions, Tunisia recalls its firm stance of condemning all forms of terrorism, and calls upon the international community to take sufficient measures to avoid any escalation and its repercussions.

Baccouche Views Domestic, Regional Topics

PM0208113489 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 25 Jul 89 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche by Muhammad Mahjub; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] In an exclusive interview with 'UKAZ, Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche emphasized that the legal amnesty issued in Tunisia crowns the measures taken since 7 November to achieve national accord and reconciliation and to enable all the sons of the Tunisian people to enjoy their civil rights in full.

He praised the custodian of the two holy mosques' efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis, pointing out that the situation in Lebanon is complex and requires arduous efforts to confront the problem. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] How would you describe Saudi-Tunisian relations in the political, economic, cultural, technical, and education fields, and how can they be developed?

[Baccouche] Saudi-Tunisian relations have been strong, staunch, and unblemished since ancient times. The Saudi brothers have always helped and supported us ever since our battle for liberation and independence. These relations have been strengthened by extensive meetings under the major Islamic orientation in Tunisia since 7 November 1987. [passage omitted]

[Mahjoub] Your Excellency Minister, as an Arab official, how do you view the situation in Lebanon?

[Baccouche] Lebanon's situation is complex and resolving this problem is a very difficult task, because there are local tensions among the Lebanese parties. There are also external tensions and old accretions. Optimism about the success of the tripartite committee stems from the fact that Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz volunteered to follow the matter himself. We are optimistic about achieving a positive solution. Undoubtedly the custodian of the two holy mosques will continue his endeavors to secure a solution that will restore peace to Lebanon and eliminate tension from the Arab region.

[Mahjub] Has the Tunisian Government managed to find a radical solution to the problems of unemployment, depreciation of the Tunisian dinar, and inflation? Have any practical measures been taken in that regard?

[Baccouche] Unemployment is a major problem that faces every developing and developed society. Therefore, officials must confront that problem by stepping up their efforts to secure an income for each citizen. There is a plan to encourage the establishment of investment projects. But the radical solution lies in establishing trust, so people can help to strengthen the march of national process. We rely on foreign investment, which encounters every encouragement and guarantee here. In this connection we are working to increase Saudi investments. There are good indications and successful experiments in the reconstruction and agricultural fields.

As for the Tunisian dinar, its real value is still the same, whether in Riyadh, Geneva, or Paris, because we made certain changes when it depreciated 2 years ago. It is now stable and truly reflects the economic situation in Tunisia. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] A comprehensive legal and political amnesty was issued recently in Tunisia. How do you assess that step?

[Baccouche] The legal amnesty in Tunisia crowns many measures taken by the regime following 7 November to achieve national reconciliation among all Tunisians, stop any unjust rulings passed against citizens, and eliminate the vestiges of the former regime. That step also crowns the policy of national reconciliation and national accord to enable all Tunisians to enjoy their civil rights in full. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Will [former Prime Minister] Mohamed Mzali be given the opportunity to return to Tunisia?

[Baccouche] The general legal amnesty covers political cases, and there is a great willingness to overlook nonpolitical matters.

[Mahjub] How would you assess the Arab Maghreb Union's [UMA] progress?

[Baccouche] The UMA was established following the five countries' endorsement of its charter. Then the executive secretariat was established and the general secretariat began its activities. The governments of the Arab Maghreb states have appointed ministers who will meet in the next few days. Undoubtedly when the leaders of the Arab Maghreb states decided to establish that union they took the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] as a living example making firm progress. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Foreign Minister, Baker Confer in Washington

JN0308162589 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 2 Aug 8

[Text] Washington, Aug 3 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah conferred in Washington last night with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. They exchanged views on several matters, mainly ways of enhancing existing friendly relations between the two countries. The meeting also reviewed latest developments concerning the U.N. Secretary Council Resolution No. 598 on achieving peace in the Gulf region. The Palestinian problem and the Lebanese crisis.

Shaykh Muhammad also held last night a dinner banquet that was attended by a number of U.S. officials, Arab and Islamic diplomats and pressmen.

The Bahraini minister had a meeting with U.S. President George Bush, in which he handed him a message from H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Expresses Support for Jordan

LD0408040389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2255 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 3 Aug (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd Al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has expressed the Kingdom's lasting support and certain backing for the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan led by His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal. This came in a statement made by our beloved king in reply to an SPA question on the nature of the visit paid by His Majesty Husayn to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques and on the results of the talks which took place during the visit.

The king, may God safeguard him, said "the close fraternal relations which bind the two sister countries are characterized by serenity, loyalty, and sincerity, within the context of mutual respect and good-neighborliness, and by the firmness of their principles and pillars throughout all the historical stages that they went through."

The custodian of the two holy mosques went on to say "it is perhaps unnecessary to confirm anew today the Kingdom's support for its sister the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan at every level dictated by the fraternal duty. And we have full confidence in the wise leadership and sound policy enjoyed by the people of Jordan in the area of my brother, His Majesty King Husayn, and wish him and fraternal Jordan, government and people, lasting elevation and continued prosperity and security."

United Arab Emirates

U.S. 'Partially Responsible' for Higgins' Fate

JN0308161689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] The U.S.-Israeli dispute on the terrorist abduction operation carried out by Israel which led to the execution of U.S. Colonel Higgins raises questions on the bilateral relations existing between the two parties to the strategic alliance, which secures U.S. support for the Zionists under all circumstances and at all times and in all places.

Depending on this alliance, Israel acted and carried out its stupid operation in southern Lebanon without taking into account the reactions which might arise inside and outside Lebanon. The result has been the execution of U.S. Col Higgins and the threat of executing other U.S. hostages.

It is natural to hold Israel responsible for the execution which has taken place and for others that might take place. However, it is unnatural to refrain from holding Washington partially responsible for these executions. Had Washington intervened immediately when Israel carried out its abduction operation—which can be classified as an act of "state terrorism"—to remedy the situation, things would not have snowballed as seriously as they have.

All the pretexts advanced by Israel to justify its operation in southern Lebanon have been rendered worthless by the large-scale international condemnation being voiced even by states which consider themselves friendly to the Zionist entity. The appeals for self-restraint addressed to the West by the enemy's foreign minister to counter the reactions which have begun to appear will fail to obliterate the emerging fact that Israel has perpetrated a terrorist act and has thus embarrassed Washington, its closest and most favored ally.

The only thing that would exempt Washington from shouldering the responsibility for what has happened, and what will happen, would be a daring step by Washington to correct its strategic relationship with Tel Aviv and dismantle the unholy alliance between them in order to bring about a change in the course of the U.S. policy. Such a change in policy would replace the full U.S. bias toward Israel with an unmistakable bias in favor of right and justice, including the justice of the Palestinian cause and that of the Palestinian Arab people's rights in Palestine.

Unless this is done, Washington will continue to share the responsibility with Tel Aviv; and then the civilized world will not accept any explanations or justifications.

Paper on Syrian 'Blackmail' in Lebanon

JN0308112689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed today that the Syrian regime intentionally places obstacles in the way of any Arab effort to resolve the Lebanese crisis, the latest of which is the deadlock reached by the tripartite Arab committee.

In an expanded article today, the paper said the dangerous deterioration in the Lebanese ordeal demands that the Damascus rulers' disdain of the principles of Arab relations be deterred.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explained that with the end of efforts exerted by the tripartite committee, and earlier by the six-man committee, the Lebanese people have lost yet another valuable opportunity and additional time, which they desperately need in this tragic situation. The Syrian regime, on the other hand, won another opportunity to continue its blackmail.

The paper said: The announcement that the tripartite committee's foreign ministers have reached a dead-end means the continuation of the Syrian occupation of Lebanese territory and the continuation of the Syrian crime of aggression against the Lebanese people. The paper stressed that this requires speedy, intensive collective Arab efforts to find a solution to this bizarre situation, represented in military occupation and armed agression by an Arab country against another sovereign Arab country. AL-JUMHURIYAH concluded: Any talk about Arab efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis should concentrate on treating the Syrian role in Lebanon—a role that has enjoyed silent and indifferent Zionist support and effective Iranian military backing.

North Yemeni Labor Minister Arrives for Meetings

JN0208182489 Baghdad INA in English 1653 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 2, INA—Mr. Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of labour and social affairs in the Yemeni Arab Republic today arrived in Baghdad at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq.

While in Baghdad, the Yemeni minister will attend meetings of the ministers of labour and social affairs of the Arab Cooperation Council, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Yemen opening here next Saturday [4 August].

Mauritanian President's Envoy Arrives in Baghdad

JN0308193089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Major Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived in Baghdad this evening. He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Mauritanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Cultural, Scientific Program Signed With Jordan

JN0308144689 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 3, INA—Iraq and Jordan today signed a program of cultural, scientific and technical cooperation for the coming three years.

The program which was signed on the Iraqi side by Mr. Mundhir Ibrahim, minister of higher education and scientific research and on the Jordanian side by Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur minister of education, consisted of three major axes namely, higher education and scientific research, education and culture.

The agreement stated on exchanging grants and scholarships between scientific institutions and universities in the two brotherly countries.

According to the program Iraqi will grant Jordan 300 scholarships while Jordan will grant Iraq 50 scholarships.

The program also stated on exchanging annual visits of teachers, publications and scientific books and bulletins in addition to participating in the scientific seminars and conferences organized by the specialized departments in them.

The two sides agreed in the fields of education, culture and archaeology on a plan to organize joint training courses and coordination in the fields of education and specializations as well as exchanging expertise in the field of culture, information and archaeology.

Shamir To Respond to Hizballah Demands
TA0308201689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that political sources in Jerusalem have noted that the suspension of the threat to execute Cicippio proves that the sharp message transmitted by the United States to Iran and Syria has indeed been understood. The Jerusalem sources noted that Israel is leaving the handling of efforts to prevent harm from befalling the U.S. hostages to the United States for now. Through coordination with Israel, Secretary of State Baker and Foreign Minister Arens are maintaining continuous contacts over this affair.

Our political correspondent was also told that Israel will react to the list of demands published this evening by Hizballah after consultations between the prime minister and Ministers Rabin, Peres, and Arens.

Shamir: Negotiations for Hostage's Release Near
TA0408104189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that at this time, we may be drawing nearer negotiations for the release of our hostages. Our political affairs correspondent Arye Golan reports that in a meeting with the Canadian Jewish Congress delegation, Mr Shamir said that the only goal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation, which ended in the transfer of Shaykh 'Ubayd to Israel, was to secure the release of our hostages; it is our duty to do all we can in this matter.

Mr Shamir reiterated his statement that if it also becomes possible to secure the release of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon, we will be very happy.

The visitors expressed the Canadian Jewish support for Israel's activities against terrorism and for the release of its hostages held in Lebanon.

Our correspondent notes that today Mr Shamir held telephone consultations with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Israel is at present waiting to receive the list of prisoners whose release is demanded by Hizballah. After the list is received, Israel will submit its own demands for the POW's held in Lebanon and for the foreign hostages. Hizballah has announced it will transfer the lists through the International Red Cross [IRC]. The IRC Beirut branch director has said, however, that so far he has received no list, and that he has not been in touch with any Hizballah officials. He added that the IRC will gladly place itself at the service of the parties.

A Shiite source in Beirut has said that the instruction to hold the execution of Joseph Cicippio was issued by Iranian President Rafsanjani.

UN envoy Marrack Goulding is to meet with several Shiite or Iranian leaders in Beirut today. It has been learned that some of these personages are known for their close ties with the kidnappers.

Netanyahu: 'Ubayd Release Without Delay Possible
TA0308175789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says Shaykh 'Ubayd was seen several times at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus receiving money for the Shiite Hizballah organization. Speaking in an interview with the BBC, Netanyahu said the fate of hostages in Lebanon and of prisoners held in Israel is in the hands of the Shiites, and that the problem could be solved by Iran and Syria. Netanyahu this evening met with the ambassadors of Western countries whose nationals are being held hostage by the Hizballah organization in Lebanon. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly, on the 2d day of his visit to Israel, held meetings with Prime Minister Shamir and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] The deputy foreign minister called in the British, West German, and Italian ambassadors and told them Israel is prepared to release Shaykh 'Ubayd, and all the other Shiite prisoners in Israel, in exchange for their kidnapped nationals and the Israeli prisoners. We are prepared to do it without delay, Netanyahu said, even before the expiry of the ultimatum.

Hizballah is also holding an Irish hostage, but Ireland does not have an ambassador in Israel.

The Japanese ambassador this evening had a meeting with Foreign Minister Arens, but it is not yet clear which side requested the meeting. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Our correspondent has just reported that it was Foreign Minister Arens who called in the Japanese ambassador as Tokyo is involved in the diplomatic contacts with Iran.

Defense Sources Clarify 'Ubayd Remarks on Higgins
TA0408084289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 89 p 11

[Report by Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] Defence sources last night denied yesterday's NEW YORK TIMES report that 'Ubayd had told his interrogators that Higgins was alive last week.

A statement issued by the Defence Ministry spokesman said: "Sources in the ministry emphasize that, according to information in their possession, Col. Higgins was killed at the end of last year in Beirut, but the defence establishment does not have evidence which absolutely verifies that information."

'Ubayd, the statement continued, said during his interrogation that, while he did not have information on Higgins's condition, he had heard rumours that Higgins was alive. "Contrary to several reports, the sheikh did not say the colonel was alive last week," the statement said.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Hostage Release

TA0308182889 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 3 Aug 89

["Statement by the Foreign Ministry Spokesman"; dated 3 August 89]

[Text] Israel welcomes the diplomatic efforts in which many countries are engaged to obtain the release of all hostages in Lebanon.

We join the calls by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom for a swift release of all hostages, and we stand ready to release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and all Shiite prisoners in exchange for the Israeli POWs and all the hostages of other nationalities.

We note the Soviet call for restraint. Six of our servicemen have been held in continuous captivity in Lebanon for several years: Three of our POWs have been held for 95 months since June 1982—their fate is completely unknown; two have been held for 41 months since February 1986; and an Air Force officer for 33 months since October 1986. During these years, ceaseless efforts have been made to obtain the freedom of our POWs by peaceful means, unfortunately with no results.

Our patience has been tested for too long; our good will was brutally exploited. This is a time of anguish and of opportunity. Resolve and firmness on the part of all freedom-loving countries may hopefully lead to the release of the Israeli POWs and of all other hostages in Lebanon.

Shamir Receives Kelly, Protests Emphasis on PLO

TA0308171889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly had a busy day today. Prior to his meeting with the delegation of Palestinians from the territories, he conferred with the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and later with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

In the course of their meeting, Shamir said that the United States accords the PLO a central place in the process, but this is preventing the Palestinians in the territories from consolidating their own position. At the end of his meeting with the prime minister, our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen heard John Kelly:

[Begin recording] [Kelly—in English] I just concluded my first meeting with Prime Minister Shamir, and we had a serious discussion of the peace process and the problems that are involved.

[Kohen translates the above and continues] This was an important and useful meeting indicative of the close relations the two countries have had for many years.

The prime minister told John Kelly that he appreciates the U.S. activity to promote the peace initiative. He said he attributes significance to a dialogue with the Palestinians here. We have some reservations about the dialogue with the PLO, he said, and at times it seems as though the United States gives it too central a place. This does not encourage the Palestinians here to come up with independent views.

In his meeting earlier with the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Kelly said that the United States favors defensible borders for Israel, and an undivided Jerusalem. He did not, however, specifically state that the United States objects to a Palestinian state. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 3 August further reports on John Kelly's meetings on 3 August, adding remarks by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles: "I am happy to state after our meeting that the position, as Kelly expressed it in no uncertain terms, is that the United States does not support a Palestinian state. Wonderful! Once that point has been made clear, and stated in such terms, it is necessary to examine a way which will, on the one hand, promote the political process, and on the other, not lead to an opposite process. Here we differ. The coordination with the PLO is itself contradictory to the objective as Mr Kelly described it."]

Kelly's Talks With Palestinians Noted

JN0308165889 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1525 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Report by Badr al-Kilani Carried in "With the Events" program]

[Text] Only half an hour ago a meeting concluded between John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state, and Palestinian figures from the territories at the U.S. Consulate in the western part of the capital. This meeting was preceded by a meeting of Palestinian delegation members to coordinate a unified response to Kelly's proposals. There were 13 figures in the delegation. They are

Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem mayor; Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, head of the lawyers union; Hannah Sinyurah, chief editor of the paper AL-FAJR; Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Union in East Jerusalem; Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Arab studies center; Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, former Hebron mayor; Sa'id Kan'an, businessman; Zahirah Kamal, head of the women's action committee; Hanan 'Asrawi, head of Bi'r Zayt Universtiy's department of arts; Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, chief editor of the paper [GAYSHIR AL-JISR]; Mahdi 'Abd-al-Hadi, director of the Academic Studies Institute for International Affairs; Ghassan al-Khatib, Bi'r Zayt University professor; and Zakariya al-Agha, chairman of the Gaza Strip Medical Association.

The meeting dealt with the Middle East peace process and the Israeli peace plan. The meeting also included a debate over the issue of elections in the territories.

Responding to a question on elections, former Hebron Mayor 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah said:

[Begin Al-Natshah recording] Naturally, we are always optimistic because we are certain that peace will be achieved some day. Actually there was nothing new in the meeting. It was a repeat of previous U.S. positions. All matters, elections and others, were discussed.

[Unidentified reporter] Regarding the elections in particular, what was your position?

[Al-Natshah] Our position is unchanged. There are questions addressed by the PLO, Egypt, and even the U.S. Administration awaiting answers from Israel regarding the elections. The elections are not an objective in themselves, but can be one of the means to further the peace process. [end recording]

Therefore, what can be said is that the meeting carried nothing new about the U.S. and Palestinian positions, except that Kelly was satisfied about the discussions that took place during the meeting. The members of the delegation were very optimistic about a second and a third meeting with Mr Kelly. Because the elections are not an objective in themselves, but a means, and if they meet the terms proposed by the PLO, a new opportunity will exist to talk about the elections.

Rabin Meets Kelly, Says Determined Free POW's

TA0408113789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] In the meeting between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, which ended a few minutes ago, Kelly said that the United States and Israel adhere to different policies on the hostage issue. He noted, however, that the United States acknowledges Israel's right to act in accordance with its policy. Our correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami reports that Kelly noted the constructive and beneficial talks he had held with Defense Ministry officials, in which the peace process in the region was also discussed.

The defense minister told his interlocutor that Israel is determined to explore every avenue to secure the release of the Israeli POW's.

The chief of staff and his deputy, the Intelligence Branch chief, and senior U.S. Embassy and Israeli Foreign Ministry officials also participated in the meeting. This afternoon John Kelly is leaving for Egypt, from which he will proceed to Jordan.

Arens Deplores Lack of European Support

AU0308133289 Rome ANSA in English 1219 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, August 3—"We took a criminal responsible for acts of terrorism ...the crisis will be concluded only at the moment that all our hostages in terrorist hands are released," Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said in an interview to the Rome daily REPUBBLICA, published today.

Arens thus defended the kidnapping in southern Lebanon of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd by Israeli commandos last week and defined the retaliatory killing of U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins by his Hizballah captors as an act of "revolting cynicism" meant to pit the world against Israel.

It appears that Hizballah has postponed the killing of other hostages and Arens did not rule out that this decision was influenced by the Soviet Union. "The Soviet Union has good relations with Syria and Syria controls the situation in Lebanon. "The USSR also has good relations with Iran," the foreign minister said.

As to the overall Mideast situation, Arens believes that Moscow can play an important role in this area but he said that first the Kremlin must correct the lopsidedness of its diplomacy, especially towards Israel. Some steps have been made in this direction, but they have been very limited, the Israeli minister went on.

The Middle East is the only area in the world which has not responded to the general improvement in international relations and the reason for this, according to Arens, is that "all of the governments in this area, with the single exception of Israel, are totalitarian governments... It is an area with a maximum level of political intolerance and fanaticism."

Many countries—Iran, Syria, Libya, do not have any real will to make peace with Israel, he said.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Israeli minister lamented a lack of support, especially political support, for Israeli peace proposals on the part of Europe. Arens

said that Israel had received such support from the United States but not from Europe, and that this had been a cause of great disappointment.

Rabin Rejects Darawshah Request To Meet 'Ubayd

TA0308111689 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Aug 89 p 5

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has rejected Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah's request to meet Shaykh 'Ubayd where the shaykh is being detained. Rabin explained in his answer to MK Darawshah that "the shaykh is undergoing interrogation at this stage and cannot be visited."

MK Darawshah said that he had intended to try to help hasten the release of the prisoners. He said that "the minister is endangering the lives of the hostages," adding that "he had been prepared to take any necessary risk when he had offered to mediate between the Israeli Government and Hizballah, but the Israeli authorities are apparently not interested. They have something to hide, and they forbid me and the International Red Cross from seeing the shaykh."

Darawshah declared that he would consult with judicial experts on the possibility of petitioning the High Court of Justice to order the defense minister to permit him to visit Shaykh 'Ubayd.

Labor: Time Not Right To Disband Government

TA0408045689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Likud ministers Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i say Prime Minister Shamir should have answered statements by Labor Leader Peres and Defense Minister Rabin that the amendments passed at the Likud Central Committee meeting to the peace initiative have now disappeared. The three ministers, who oppose the peace initiative as endorsed by the Cabinet, were speaking to a gathering of supporters last night.

A group of prominent Labor Party doves has decided that the time is not right to break up the national unity government. Meeting last night, the group, which includes Abba Eban and Labor Knesset members 'Uzi Bar'am, Yosi Beilin, Ora Namir and Hayim Ramon, said they will apply constant pressure on the government to further the peace process. Participants at the meeting said Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens view the current peace initiative merely as a tactical step.

Leaders, Media Comment on Hostage Affair

Peres on Complexity of Issue

TA0408105089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres appeared before members of the United Jewish Appeal [UJA], and told them that the situation surrounding the hostage affair is complex, and it will take some time before the picture clears. Here is our correspondent Yaron Toren with Peres' remarks:

[Begin recording] [Toren] The members of the UJA who are currently visiting Israel did not make things difficult for the vice prime minister this morning. Finance Minister Shim'on Peres was not even asked one question regarding the hostages in southern Lebanon or the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd, and it was Peres himself who raised the issue. Peres said that the current situation is very complex, and it will take some time before the picture clears. Peres once more justified Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction.

[Peres, in English] There is no room, and no way for people who are threatening the lives of other people, many of them civilians...

[Toren, translates above remarks and continues]... to escape unscathed and without punishment. Then the finance minister moved on to economic issues, since his audience was made up of important potential contributors to the state of Israel.

Shim'on Peres explained Israel's great expenditures on defense related issues and the repayment of debts. Peres said that 60 percent of the budget is used only for these purposes. The minister also talked about the intifadah [uprising] which costs us 1 billion dollars every year. The finance minister called on the UJA representatives to help the Israeli economy both with money and also by placing their financial savvy at Israel's disposal.[end recording]

Paper Assails U.S. 'Groveling'

TA0108114889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "United Front"]

[Text] It is one thing for Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, en route to Tehran, to lamely denounce the Muslim fanatics while pointing an accusing finger at Israel and using blunt language to describe the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd as an act of terror.

But that Robert Dole, the Senate Republican leader, should not mince his words in reminding Israel of its responsibility, as it were?

For what? For the fact that for many months, Israel tried to enter a dialogue with Hizballah in a bid to agree on a prisoner exchange? For what? For the fact that after having exhausted all other avenues, it carried out one single act of force, which is the only thing the Shiites understand?

Unfortunately, it is not just one senator who is displaying an abysmal lack of understanding of what is happening in this part of the world and who has not yet realized that Muslim fanatics not only threaten Israel but the entire Western world.

The behavior of U.S. policymakers in the last few days has been plagued with unmistakable signs of confusion and bewilderment.

As if they had forgotten, or were trying to make people forget, the fact that the United States, more than any other country in the world, has suffered at the hands of Shiite terror, been the subject of murderous attacks by Hizballah, and had the largest number of citizens kidnapped.

Instead of daringly and openly standing by Israel in its tough and indefatigable war against kidnappers and assassins, the United States is now groveling, hesitating, and creating the impression that it is ready to put us in the same category as the worst of the Western world's enemies.

This harsh and painful assessment will still apply—and we must say as much—even if, God forbid, the reports about the execution of Colonel Higgins are confirmed. There is still a flicker of hope that the videocassette that was handed over yesterday may have been a photomontage. It may very well be that the hanging, if there was one, took place and was photographed a year ago and is in no way connected to 'Ubayd's abduction.

But even if the worst were to come true and we had to decry the cruel death of the UN colonel together with the American people, we would like to hope that Washington would come to its senses in identifying those who are its allies and those who, together with us, it must fight in this demented Middle East.

If this tragic event were to cause even the slightest damage to the U.S. attitude toward Israel, the Islamic fanatics would be granted a first-class prize and would be encouraged to continue their crimes.

'Surrender No Answer'

TA0208085989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Doing and Explaining"]

[Text] As so often happens when the country finds itself in a cleft stick, a massive hasbara [information] campaign is now underway.

Its purpose this time is to persuade the West, but especially the U.S., that Israel acted justly, for a good cause, and under supreme provocation when it seized Sheikh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the Hizballah terrorism chief; that Israel is deeply concerned about the safety of all the Western hostages grabbed by Hizballah for reasons completely unrelated to any prior Israeli actions, and that it would be wrong for the American people to allow the terrorist Hizballah to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Israel.

A statement on the matter was issued by the Foreign Ministry yesterday, and on the whole it makes good sense.

Some people, it is true, may be surprised to learn that it is Hizballah, and by implication not the PLO, that is "the most bloody, deceitful and extremist terror organization" ever encountered by Israel. Superlatives aside, however, it is only right that Hizballah's "bloody, deceitful and terrorist" character should be exposed for the inspection of civilized mankind. The same could have been done for Hizballah's Tehran-approved programme for the "liberation" of Palestine from Israel's grip.

The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] seizure of Sheikh 'Ubayd, it is pointed out, followed three years of unavailing efforts by Israel to peacefully secure the release of three of its servicemen from Hizballah captivity. Israel wholeheartedly welcomes President Bush's call for an end to the cycle of violence in the area, and it is fully prepared to exchange its Shiite terrorist prisoners for "all hostages of all nationalities" held by Hizballah. But for the common struggle against terrorism to be crowned with success, the Foreign Ministry insists, "the democratic world" must stand united.

United in doing, or not doing, precisely what? That question is ducked, deliberately but perhaps ineluctably, by the Foreign Ministry. The answer might conceivably be, united in refusing to be terrorized by the threatened Hizballah killings of Western hostages in retaliation for Israel's removal of Shaykh 'Ubayd from Lebanon. United, too, in declining to bludgeon Israel into releasing the Hizballah terrorist chief without even letting it obtain the release of its three servicemen by their Shiite captors.

Clarity in the matter is missing. This may reflect the sense, in official Jerusalem, of possible differing perceptions in the U.S. on how to resolve the hostage crisis.

For the moment such differences have not surfaced in any powerful way in relations with the Bush administration. Mr. Bush's rebuke, last Friday, was mild and almost veiled. Criticism by administration officials of Israel's "kidnapping" operation are made only off the record. Republican Senator Robert Dole was speaking for himself when he charged this country with "irresponsible"

behaviour. The defence of Israel mounted yesterday by Republican Senator Richard Lugar and others seemed much more representative of American public opinion.

Israel, needless to say, is a sovereign state, and as such it is entitled to make its own decisions where the safety of its citizens is concerned. But the U.S., too, is a sovereign state, and the safety of U.S. citizens now appears to be affected by Israel's decisions. Yet despite heavy dependence on its superpower ally, Israel owed the U.S. no duty of prior coordination when it sent its soldiers into Jibshit. Nor should the U.S. have been interested in any such prior knowledge. But the U.S. is, by the same token, not obligated to follow Israel's lead nor to be held vicariously responsible for Israel's operations against Hizballah.

This is the dilemma faced by both countries. And it is better that they face it together. For the basic problem is how to deal with a manic evil. Counter action makes it more manic. But inaction is surrender to it, as the hostages and their families know. For good to prevail, in that equation, surrender is no answer.

Netanyahu Cited on Crisis

PM0108143489 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv and former U.S. Under Secretary of State Joseph Sisco in Washington on 31 July by news presenter Donald MacCormick in London, monitored in progress in the framework of BBC 2 "Newsnight" program, following a report by Wesley Kerr on Israel's role in the latest hostage crisis—recorded]

[Text] [MacCormick] And to discuss this latest phase of the never-ending crisis, I'm joined from Tel Aviv by Benjamin Netanyahu, who is Israel's deputy foreign minister, and from Washington by the former under secretary of state, Dr Joe Sisco. First of all, to you, Dr Sisco: You may have heard Senator Robert Dole saying there in our film report by Wesley Kerr that he... in effect, calling on Israel to show a little more responsibility in the Middle East when hostages' lives are at stake. Do you think that was justified?

[Sisco] Well, I think it was an emotional reaction. There isn't any question that there are a variety of means that have to be used in order to cope with terrorism. I myself believe that in this particular instance I would have wished that there would have been close consultations between the United States and Israel. I would hope that there would be restraint in the coming days because as the options are examined by the United States in the short term, we are going to find that, in the first instance, diplomatic remedies will be sought and exhausted, but in the long term, bear in mind that the Israelis do have in hand an important Shiite leader, and these are ways to create leverage. As sad as the situation is, I would hope that the assassination of Colonel Higgins is not confirmed, but we don't know for sure, and there's been no official announcement here in Washington.

[MacCormick] So you say that, in the last resort, the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd was justified?

[Sisco] No, I didn't say that. I don't condone the action that was taken, but the evaluation that one must focus on is what unhappily may be the immediate, unconfirmed action as against what this might mean in the long run in terms of not only freeing American hostages, but British hostages, and the like.

[MacCormick] All right, then...

[Sisco, interrupts] I don't think we ought to... I don't think we ought to draw a conclusive judgment at this point, as sad as the situation is.

[MacCormick] Well, Mr Netanyahu, joining us from Tel Aviv, would you draw any conclusion from the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd, and as applied to the fate of Colonel Higgins?

[Netanyahu] Well, you know, you're dealing here with an organization that resorts to anything—violence, torture, and lies: They lie a great deal. And in fact we've had instances in the past where they've produced the bodies of hostages whom they've brutally murdered, but murdered perhaps a year, half a year, before the event of producing the film or the corpse itself. This may very well be, from our indications, such a case in the case of Colonel Higgins, but we're waiting for conclusive proof.

[MacCormick] And did Israel kidnap Shaykh 'Ubayd last Friday with the specific and deliberate intention of doing the kind of deal that Mr Yitzhaq Rabin spoke of today?

[Netanyahu] Well, I can tell you what our overall view of the situation is. Here you have a pocket of barbarism where no government is in charge, although some governments, specifically Iran—we're learning a great deal about Iranian involvement from Shaykh 'Ubayd, I must tell you—and Libya, as well. [sentence as heard]

[MacCormick] Can you tell us any more? Can you tell us any more than that?

[Netanyahu] Well, I can say that we're learning a great deal about the whole Hizballah terror apparatus: the Iranian involvement; the fact that Shaykh 'Ubayd himself was involved in some of these kidnappings, including Colonel Higgins', sheltering Colonel Higgins' kidnappers. You're dealing here with a "Terrorism, Inc.", and it's operating essentially with immunity. Now, the question we have—and it's not... by "we" I don't mean only Israel: I mean Britain, whose nationals are kidnapped there; I mean the United States; I mean the Western World, the democracies, who are the prey for this kind of

terrorism, this kind of brutality. The question is: What do we do against this kind of systemic violence that is sheltered by a nongovernment—it doesn't have a government, Lebanon. The only thing we can do, I think, in the long run, as Dr Sisco mentioned—I think he's got a point—what we can do in the long run is to make sure that the leaders understand that they do not have immunity; that the people who are responsible for organizing and carrying out these things know that there is a price to pay, perhaps a personal price...

[MacCormick, interrupts] But, that, that...

[Netanyahu, interrupts]...and that is something that may produce, in the short term, a very difficult and perhaps tragic... uh, difficulties. We hope not...

[MacCormick, interrupts] But, you, you...

[Netanyahu, interrupts]...but in the long run, this is the only way to overcome this problem.

[MacCormick] But you seem to be talking, Mr Netanyahu, about retribution. Mr Rabin was saying that this had all been done with a view to setting up a deal, an exchange of hostages.

[Netanyahu] Indeed. Indeed, we have, in fact, a proposal. We are suggesting this swap. It is up to them to do so. What we would like to do is to have this exchange to free not only our own POW's, who have been languishing there, but also the other nationals who are held hostage in Lebanon. We hope that this will come to pass.

[MacCormick] What do you think are the prospects for some kind of deal, Joe Sisco. And in the light of that, what action, if any, do you think President Bush should now take?

[Sisco] Well, first of all, Colonel Higgins is... was a member of the UN Peacekeeping Force, so both the United States as well as the UN Secretary General have a very special responsibility in this situation. I believe that, one, the Soviet foreign minister is going to Tehran. Certainly the United States will make its views known to the USSR. In the long run, we really have to focus on both Iran as well as Syria. Iran does have influence with the Hizballah, and if this is a new government that really wants to open to the West and to develop a working relationship, the hostage issue is a number one issue. As far as Syria is concerned, Syria has a good deal of control in these areas in Lebanon, and therefore the United States undoubtedly is going to underscore with the Syrians that they too have influence in the situation by virtue of their presence in Lebanon. I think you will find that coming out of Washington, the President has been very prudent; I think every diplomatic course will be explored in the first instance; and I'm sure that there will be a major effort made in the short term.

[MacCormick] But, but... we had in Congress today some speakers saying that the Americans should use some of their formidable array of weaponry to tackle this problem. I take it you would counsel against any military action at this time.

[Sisco] Where's the target? At whom are you going to aim this huge arsenal of weaponry? How can you use military force here against a nongovernmental group where you've got a number of Western hostages that are being held? You cannot use military force indiscriminately: A pinpoint operation is very difficult. Yes, we have military capacities, but they're most difficult to apply, particularly for a major power such as the United States.

[MacCormick] Mr Netanyahu, as to what Israel should do next, the most important question comes up tomorrow: Is there any possibility at all of Israel releasing Shaykh 'Ubayd in response to the new threats that have been made today against Joseph Ciccipio, the second American hostage?

[Netanyahu] I think the worst mistake would be to take these threats, knuckle under to them—of course, we can do that. I think what will happen is that if we surrender—and indeed, if we all surrendered—then we'd have many, many more hostages, many more lives threatened, many more tragedies. Again, I think these threats may be empty threats, but that's not the crucial thing: The crucial thing is that we have to adopt a policy that says we apply the pressure, we demand certain things, and in this case we also propose something that might lead to the freedom of all Western hostages and of course Israeli POW's as well.

[MacCormick] But you yourself, Mr Netanyahu, talked about these groups in Lebanon operating almost with immunity, and in Wesley Kerr's report we heard, for example, about the power struggle in Iran, which makes it seem extremely improbable that President Rafsanjani can actually deliver anything in the form of a deal.

[Netanyahu] Iran today has a great deal of influence on these groups—there's no question about it—and I think that it's important that the governments that support these groups, as well as the leadership of the Hizballah, know that they will be held responsible for any harm done to hostages. I think also that it is possible to apply pressure on the Hizballah leadership itself: They must know that they are being watched; that they are being monitored; and that, again, they are personally accountable. So I wouldn't rule out the possibility of relieving them of some of this immunity, and that really is a major purpose in fighting this war against terrorism.

[MacCormick] Can I ask you to comment on that, Joe Sisco, just as a last point, and briefly, if you can, please?

[Sisco] Very briefly, I agree with the essentials of what he had to say. There is no one means that can extirpate this kind of terrorism on the part of these groups, and all means have to be used. In this particular instance, it was an abduction. I underscore what I said earlier: Let's wait and see how this evolves.

[MacCormick] Joe Sisco and Benjamin Netanyahu, thank you both very much indeed for taking part tonight.

'Ubayd Kidnapping: 'Bargaining Chip'

TA0208142589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 89 p 9

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Was Israel Wrong in Abducting the Shaykh?"]

[Text] Did Israel fail to foresee the possible ramifications of the decision to kidnap Shiite Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd? This question is probably being asked by many people in the wake of the assassination of Colonel Higgins, and in view of the remarks of Republican Minority leader Robert Dole, who accused Israel of acting irresponsibly and lacking consideration for the lives of Americans. His remarks were made after the news that Colonel William Higgins had been executed by his kidnappers reached Washington. It is usually hard to predict the responses of religious fanatics—especially in Lebanon—however, if this possibility was not considered when the operation was discussed, this failure was a mistake.

Another question is whether the possibility that hostages would be executed should have prevented the operation, and perpetually force Israel to restrict its actions. If the possibility was not raised, it is hard to assess how the ministers might have voted had it been raised. According to various publications, Israel abstained in the past from bombing Hizballah bases in al-Biqa' because it did not wish to harm U.S. hostages possibly held at those bases. This precedent should not be seen as a policy to which Israel will necessarily adhere in the future, particularly when efforts to release hostages are at stake. In any event, Senator Dole played into Hizballah's hands by doing precisely what the terrorists expected American notables to do: Exert pressure on Israel to immediately release Shaykh 'Ubayd, before his interrogation reaches advanced stages, impairs the war against terrorism, and creates a rift among those who wage this war. This is why the terrorists have killed American hostages before any others. More criticism will be probably leveled at Israel in the United States in the context of the kidnapping, but still it should be remembered that Washington is waging a determined war against terrorism. The United States has bombed Libyan targets, forced down an Egyptian plane which was transferring the Achille Lauro kidnappers, and in September 1987, it even carried out a high-seas abduction of Hizballah member Fawwaz Yunis, who was involved in the hijacking of a TWA plane to Beirut. Yunis was subsequently tried in the United States. Washington's approach to negotiations with terrorists is even tougher than Israel's. The United States has refused to conduct talks with them, while Israel is willing to do so.

As for the irresponsibility Israel has been charged with in connection with the operation, any difference between the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd and the kidnapping of Fawwaz Yunis by the United States is barely discernible. The latter's abduction was a punitive act, while 'Ubayd was brought to Israel in order to save POW's. This was probably Israel's main consideration in kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd. Had the goal been only the prevention of terror, the forces could have easily killed the shaykh and departed. Israel is not short of detainees, its prisons are full and do not need additional inhabitants. In this case, however, the planners of the operation wished to obtain a bargaining chip. The operation was approved only after the Hizballah and other Shiite bodies refused to negotiate. Israel made enormous efforts, extending far beyond the borders of the Middle East, in its attempts to make a deal. Only when these attempts failed did Israel begin seeking means of pressure, the first of which was the kidnapping of another Shiite commander, (Jawad Qasfi), who was kidnapped in Lebanon in December 1988.

It is worth mentioning that Israel has habitually exerted pressure by means of abduction in instances in which it failed to attain negotiations for the release of its POW's. It did so in the 1950's; and in 1972, in order to press for the release of Israeli POW's in Syria, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] kidnapped several Syrian officers who were on patrol in Lebanon. Israel kidnapped Ahmad Jibril's nephew from Lebanon even before the exchange of eight of our POW's for 1,200 terrorists. It was only after that act that Jibril agreed to accelerate the negotiations, although it was at this point that Israel committed an error by consenting to a wrong dictate allowing 700 of the terrorists to stay in Israel. Has the method of exerting pressure through kidnapping always been helpful? In some cases it prompted negotiations, while in others it made no apparent difference. The identity of the kidnapped enemy was a crucial factor in these cases.

When a decision to kidnap 'Ubayd was made, no one said with certainty that this would be the step bringing Israel's POW's home. The general feeling, however, was that the move would be an asset toward prisoner exchange negotiations. This time, in kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd, Israel must have touched a raw nerve in the Hizballah.

That would explain the emotional reactions everywhere from Hizballah to Iran. Both Hizballah and Iran realize that the shaykh possesses considerable knowledge of kidnappings and hostages held in Lebanon. That is why they do not want him to face a prolonged interrogation. The man had been involved in the deeds of spiritual leader Shaykh Fadlallah's court; was personally involved in the plans for kidnapping two IDF soldiers in February

1985; presumably also involved in the kidnapping of Colonel Higgins; and, in at least one case, involved in the preparation of a car bomb at ('Egel) Gate [of an IDF camp in southern Lebanon] in March 1985, which killed 12 people.

The goal of the Hizballah, which was shocked to find out that one of their leaders received the same treatment with which they treat others, is to obtain his immediate release. The question is what course of action Israel should now take. Its proposal to launch a wholesale negotiation giving away hundreds of Shiite detainees, and including other hostages in the deal, was a correct approach. It is highly doubtful that Israel will agree to release Shaykh 'Ubayd without receiving anything in return. By the way, one of the estimates is that some of the hostages were killed a long time ago, and that the photographs were taken then. It is also conceivable that the murdered men's corpses are kept in refrigeration for future use. Hostages have been killed in the past without any connection to the kidnapping of 'Ubayd. Among these were the CIA's Buckley, who was tortured to death; a Soviet diplomat; and a number of Jews from Beirut. Surrendering at this time would mean a great victory for terrorism. By using this method they would be able to halt any activity of which they do not approve simply by holding a group of hostages from different countries. Israel cannot be a party to this game, particularly in view of the fact that it is the target of most terrorist activities. This is insane terror which has no connection whatsoever to the political process that should take place between Israel and the PLO.

Bomb Explosion Wounds 6 Slightly in Khan Yunus
TA0308092889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] An explosive charge blew up on the route taken by a Border Police jeep in Khan Yunus a short while ago. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that three policemen and three local residents were slightly wounded in the explosion. Apparently, the charge also included a hand grenade. Security forces have launched searches.

19 Said Wounded in Gaza After Attack
TA0408110289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Aug 89 p 7

[Report by Mikhal Qedem and Oren Kohen]

[Excerpts] Three soldiers were wounded yesterday when a grenade was hurled at their patrol vehicle from a planned ambush in the main street of Khan Yunus. The soldiers were hit by shrapnel. Arab sources said 19 people were wounded, 6 seriously, in IDF [Israel Defense Forces] actions after the grenade incident. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 4 August reported that "the Israeli Army has sealed 20 stores in the main street of Khan Yunus" after yesterday's grenade attack. "The Army also sealed an abandoned apartment from which the grenade was thrown."]

Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, and Major General Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command, yesterday toured the Gaza Strip. There was another relatively quiet day in the West Bank yesterday. [passage omitted]

Arab sources reported a large demonstration in 'Umar al-Mukhtar Street in Gaza. The sources said there were four casualties in various Gaza Strip incidents. The IDF spokesman said there was a quiet day with no casualties or special incidents.

A 22-year-old man from Khan Yunus was beaten by masked men on suspicion that he cooperated with Israel. He was hospitalized at Gaza's al-Shifa' Hospital in a critical condition. A couple from al-Nusayrat were beaten up on the same suspicion and also hospitalized at al-Shifa'.

The West Bank was relatively quiet yesterday. Arab sources in Nabulus said firebombs were hurled at military vehicles, and that a vehicle traveling in the main square was damaged by a firebomb that ignited. No casualties were reported. [passage omitted]

SLA Defuses 'Very Large' Bomb in Security Zone
TA0208105089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] A very large explosive device was discovered this morning by a South Lebanese Army patrol in the security zone. The bomb, weighing 50 kg, was successfully defused. It had been left near the village of Bayt Yahun in the central sector.

Mordekhay Replaces Mitzna' in IDF Central Command
TA0408062989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, formerly Southern Command commander, is taking over the position of Central Command commander today, replacing Major General 'Amram Mitzna', who will attend job-related studies abroad for 1 year.

Refugees Flee Beirut Shelling to South Lebanon
TA0408092789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 89 p 16

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Metulla—More than 3,000 refugees fleeing the artillery bombardments that have battered Beirut have found a safe haven inside the security zone in South Lebanon in the past few days, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources reported yesterday.

This brings to more than 7,000 the number of people who have sought and been granted refuge in the zone since the fighting between Christian and Syrian gunners escalated two weeks ago.

Army sources said 70 per cent of the refugees were Shiites. The others include Sunnis and Druse who had also been affected by the artillery, rocket and mortar duels that have devastated the Lebanese capital.

The IDF's civil administration unit has been assisting the newcomers to find housing, in addition to helping them with food and medical care. Owners of empty homes have been approached and agreements have been reached to enable refugees and their families to move in, the sources said.

In addition to those refugees who have been granted permission to enter the zone via its various crossing points, many thousands more have congregated in towns and villages such as Bra'shit, Tibnin, Haddathah, al-Sarafand and al-Afa, which adjoin the northern border of the zone, the sources added.

'Terrorist' Squad Found in Jerusalem Neighborhood

TA0308120089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Jerusalem police and the security services have uncovered a local squad in the Arab part of the Abu-Tor neighborhood in Jerusalem. Members of the squad are suspected of having hurled Molotov cocktails and of involvement in several terrorist acts. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the four squad members, residents of this neighborhood, are suspected of hurling seven Molotov cocktails at police and Border Police patrols, assaulting a local resident suspected of collaboration with the authorities, setting an Israeli vehicle on fire, erecting roadblocks, painting anti-Israeli slogans, and hoisting PLO flags. Several of the suspects were detained during the curfew which was imposed over a week ago on the Abu-Tor neighborhood. The interrogation of the suspects is continuing, and additional detentions are possible.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 3 August adds that "a resident of Dayr Istiya in Samaria was wounded last night by Army soldiers' shots during an incident involving the stoning of a routine patrol. The security forces this morning imposed a curfew on the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm due to disturbances that took place in the camp last night."]

'Terror Gangs' Uncovered Near Jericho

TA0308103489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Security forces have uncovered several terror gangs in the 'Ayn al-Sultan refugee camp near Jericho. Authorities say more than 10 people were arrested, suspected of throwing firebombs, organizing disturbances, and distributing anti-Israel leaflets in the area.

Two of the suspects allegedly threw a firebomb at an Israeli car in May of 1988. The driver of the vehicle was severely injured. Other members are suspected of throwing firebombs at commercial vehicles, a bus, and at a local restaurant, as well as Jericho residents suspected of cooperating with authorities.

Saudi Arabia Deposits $1 Billion in Central Bank

JN0308174289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] It has been reported from Amman that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has responded to a request by King Husayn to deposit an interest-free sum of $1 billion in the Central Bank of Jordan to help Jordan overcome the dinar crisis.

Radio Monte Carlo on Deposit, Aid

JN0408133289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned from an authorized source that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to deposit $1 billion in the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] free of interest. It has also extended $200 million in financial aid to Jordan to enable it to overcome its financial and economic crisis. This Saudi initiative follows Jordanian monarch King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia last Monday.

Economic sources believe that the deposit and financial aid will support the CBJ's efforts to build its reserves of foreign currency and the stability of the dinar's exchange rate, which has lost approximately 75 percent of its value during the past 15 months.

In a related development, the financial and economic quarters viewed the decision made by the Economic Security Committee to merge the Jordan Gulf Bank with the Petra Bank as a step designed to rectify the course of banking institutions and prevent illegal competition and speculation.

CBJ Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi has affirmed to our radio that the decision was a message proving that nothing in the banking apparatus falls outside the control and surveillance of the CBJ, the official agency responsible for monetary policy in the country. He indicated that the CBJ intends to closely follow all the activities being carried out by banking institutions to protect the monetary system and the savers' deposits, whether these deposits are in Jordanian dinars or in foreign currency.

CBJ Merges Petra, Jordan Gulf Banks

JN0308134689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] In accordance with the government's policy of readjusting the banking system, and as part of the measures adopted by the Central Bank [of Jordan] [CBJ] to streamline the banking system both in quality and quantity to promote monetary stability in the Kingdom in accordance with the general economic policies of the government; proceeding from an orientation to rationalize credit policies in the banking system as well as to control and manage credit so it is responsive to the desired economic growth; in light of the present economic readjustment circumstances; and based on the responsibilities of the CBJ and its concern for maintaining a sound banking system capable of serving the objectives of development, a decision has been made to merge the Jordan and Gulf Bank and the Petra Bank.

This is being done with a view to restructuring the capital of the two banks to guarantee consolidating the capital accounts of the new bank and increasing its liquidity. This will enable the bank to engage in the new investment areas made available by large-scale enonomics to suit the requirements of international banking and strengthen the new bank in this area .

The Petra and the Jordan and Gulf banks will be open for business on the morning of 5 August 1989 as usual and without interruption. Their new management will ensure that they meet their customers' requirements while meeting fully their domestic and external obligations.

CBJ To Organize Currency Exchange Companies Work

JN0208124989 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—Informed banking sources have told AL-DUSTUR that the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] is preparing a draft law to reorganize the work of currency exchange companies in Jordan. The draft law will contain new conditions that will enable the CBJ to begin strict control of the work of currency exchange companies, which may be established under the new law.

The source also said that the draft law will also include provisions, under which the previous private companies will become general joint-stock companies.

These banking sources also explained that the CBJ will start introducing amounts of foreign currency into the banking system as of today to cover some imports of the basic foodstuffs, medicine, raw materials used in Jordanian industry, and needs of Jordanian students abroad.

Daily on Results of CBJ's Monetary Measures

JN0208112889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 13

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] will pump $15 million into commercial banks as of today. It has been decided that this amount will be used to meet the citizens' basic needs at the official prices fixed by the CBJ and to finance the purchase of basic foodstuffs and cover the expenses of students abroad.

The CBJ also introduced $30 million in two installments last month, and the commercial banks extended the facilities required by the citizens.

In another development, a number of commercial banks yesterday sold the dollar for 87 piasters after the CBJ applied the two-price system to hard currency. Yesterday, the commercial banks provided hard currency to citizens who wanted it to meet their needs. Thus, the CBJ has achieved the goals of its decision. The commercial banks, which used to keep dollars safely hidden away, have taken it out to meet the citizens' legitimate needs and allow them to obtain foreign currency for travel, medical, and trade purposes.

The CBJ's decision also succeeded in preventing this money from being transferred to the dark channels of the black market, which would not have been controlled if this decision had not been made. Today, we sensed that the decision has clearly limited the black market's activity.

The decision also solved a difficult problem from which importers suffered much in obtaining foreign currency to cover their letters of credit. It also ended problems concerning the difference between the official prices declared daily by the CBJ and the price which the importers obtain from the black market. This difference in the two prices was considered illegal by the Income Tax Department. Under this system, citizens can secure their needs of hard currency from banks and financial institutions controlled by the competent organs, and not from persons working in the black market and violating regulations and the law.

The prices of local products will rise as a result of increasing costs. More importantly, factories are no longer threatened with closure due to the scarcity of hard currency. All raw materials used in industry will continue to be imported, although we had hoped that raw materials used in industry would be included in the CBJ's official price list to prevent a rise in the price of local industrial products.

Bassam 'Atari, general manager of the Bank of Jordan, said that his bank sold the dollar to citizens at two prices. The first price of 57 piasters for the dollar in accordance with the CBJ's official price, had an ample share in monetary activity. Citizens bought the dollar at this price for medical, travel, and trade purposes. The second unofficial price, which ranges from 85 to 87 piasters for the dollar, is intended to meet legitimate needs such as medical treatment, travel, and trade. [sentence as published]

'Atari believes that the CBJ's step constitutes recognition of a fact and was intended to legitimize a 3-month-old fact, because this step maintains the official price. The importance of this system also lies in the fact that it will halt the illegitimate demand for hard currency and will also limit black market activities.

'Atari expressed optimism that if the market is left free, the dinar will become stable, pointing out that the price of the dollar may rise but in the long run it will become stable. He added that the psychological factor contributes to the rise in the dollar price.

Muhammad Ghunaym, member of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, said that the CBJ's repeated attempts to correct the financial situation that has resulted from the unstable exchange rate expresses the government's intention to find suitable solutions that will enable citizens to obtain basic commodities at prices that suit the current circumstances. He added that the two-price system will help to solve the problems of importers.

He also said that when the commercial banks secure hard currency from their resources and meet the needs of the citizens and importers, the price of the dollar will eventually stabilize.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Industry and Trade told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the CBJ's recent measures will impact indirectly on national industry, because these measures will reduce demand for foreign currency, as was the case in the past.

The Amman Chamber of Industry sources also said that the new measures will serve the national industry, because the CBJ will cover 50 percent of the letters of credit to import raw and intermediary material, and the second 50 percent will remain the responsibility of the manufacturers, bearing in mind that the difference in the price regarding the second 50 percent will be taken into consideration when calculating the cost of the products.

Daily on Campaign Against Counterfeit Currencies

JN0208092289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 1

[By Muhammad 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—The competent security organs are currently launching extensive campaigns to monitor and seize counterfeit foreign currencies, especially the U.S. dollar, and speculators against currency prices in the Jordanian market in the various governorates, districts, and subdistricts in the Kingdom in order to protect the national economy from those who are only interested in their personal interests, which conflict with the concept of true national affiliation. These organs are taking the necessary measures and inflicting the maximum punishment on these speculators and money dealers.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that a number of these dealers were arrested while trying to bring in and deposit counterfeit currencies in Jordanian banks.

Paper Criticizes U.S. President's Peace Talk

JN0308114689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Aug 89 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "What Peace Is Bush Talking About?"]

[Text] In his telephone call to his holiness the pope in the Vatican, U.S. President George Bush explained that he has always sought through diplomatic channels and all possible means to boost the peace process in Lebanon and the entire region!

Such talk by the U.S. President produces expressions of surprise and amazement because it is inconceivable that the United States really wants peace in Lebanon but has been unable to attain it or that it also wants peace in all parts of the region, including the Palestinian cause and Middle East crisis, but has been unable to take one step toward its attainment. President Bush's comment came in the process requesting his holiness the pope to intervene for the return of the body of Colonel William Higgins from Beirut to his home country. We believe that, becase of the occasion, Bush was only being polite.

If the U.S. President wants peace for Lebanon, Palestine, and the Middle East, the way is paved and its landmarks are clear enough. They do not require further exploration by John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state, who has come to the region to discover all this.

The acts of maneuvering, indifference, pressure, and terrorism to which the states of the region have been subjected for 20 years are sufficient. Moreover, the UN Security Council's resolutions on Lebanon, Palestine, and the Middle East crisis are clear enough and devoid of any ambiguity.

If President Bush really means what he said to his holiness the pope, why did he not say this before to the people in the region? Why does President Bush's administration in particular contribute to defaming the United States and its credibility, particularly among the people of this region?

Yesterday's reports said that John Kelly, the assistant U.S. secretary of state, had arrived in Israel, carrying an American plan to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, at the start of a tour of a number of capitals in the region.

We do not know whether these reports are true or whether they are only a trial balloon. Still, we fear that, as on many previous occasions, this American plan will only serve Israel's aggressive and expansionist interests and consequently cannot be accepted by the Arabs. The failure of this plan will buy Israel more time. The tragedy in the whole matter is that they [the Americans] are offering the Arabs a carrot while brandishing a club. In the end, we discover that the carrot is made of plastic.

Radio Monte Carlo on Military Debts to USSR

JN0208143889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan is preparing for talks with Soviet officials on the rescheduling of debts to the Soviet Union due to be paid by Jordan during the years 1989-90. This has been confirmed to our radio by Tahir al-Masri, deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs.

Al-Masri who will leave for Moscow next Tuesday [8 August] for this purpose voiced the hope that Jordan will obtain from the Soviet Union terms and facilities similar to the ones which it secured from the Paris Club last month.

Jordan concluded an agreement with its Paris Club creditors providing for a rescheduling of its debts which are due during the years 1989-90 over a 10-year period, with a 5-year grace period. Most of Jordan's Soviet debts are military debts, as Jordan purchased Soviet weapons and air defense equipment, especially in 1984 after the United States refused to sell it surface-to-air Stinger missiles.

Economic quarters estimate the installments due to be paid by Jordan to the USSR during the years 1989-90 to total approximately $100 million. Jordan's military debts constitute only 25 percent of the total of Jordan's foreign debts, which amount to $8.3 billion.

Iraq's Ramadan Makes Statement, Departs for Home

JN0208125489 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister, left Amman today at the conclusion of a 2-day state visit to Jordan during which he conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Husayn. Mr Ramadan is now carrying a message from his majesty to President Husayn.

In a statement before departure, Mr Ramadan said he met his majesty the king and his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan for talks on Arab and international issues as well as the Arab Cooperation Council. He said talks also dealt with the Lebanese crisis, ascertaining that the two leaders agree on the necessity of Arab leaders to shoulder their responsibility for salvaging Lebanon. The talks also tackled the latest developments of the Palestinian problem.

RJO's 'Initiative' Delivered to AL-NAHAR

NC0308190089 Paris AFP in English 1838 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 3 (AFP)—The Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) announced late Thursday [3 August] that it was suspending its death threat against U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio, less than one hour before he was due to be executed.

The shadowy Shiite Muslim group, in an authenticated statement delivered to a Western news agency here, said it was demanding the liberation "in the next few days" of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and "militants held in Israel."

"We would have wished for the failure of diplomacy, to execute the spy Cicippio and make America fall in the trap, to make it bite the dust..," the RJO said in its latest statement in Arabic, accompanied by a colour photograph of Mr. Cicippio.

"But out of respect for the parties and states who intervened at the request of America to prevent the execution, we announce the suspension of the sentence and its replacement by an initiative," it said.

"If an initiative is capable of resolving the affair and unveiling the intentions and plans of Zionist imperialism, then it is us, the RJO, the avant-garde of humanitarian initiatives, that are capable of making it."

The RJO demanded the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd "and a number of fighters in the Palestinian intifadah (uprising) and Lebanese heroes of the resistance against Israel." The number of prisoners to be freed by Israel would be fixed later and the lists presented to the Red Cross, the group said.

"An agreement must be announced in the next few days, otherwise the initiative will be annulled," it said, signing off with the slogan, "Victory to the oppressed on the path of freedom, justice and glory to the martyrs."

UN's Goulding Confers With Hizballah Officials

NC0408124089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] A meeting was held today in the Hizballah center in Bi'r al-'Abd in Beirut. It was attended by Marrack Goulding, assistant UN secretary general, and Hizballah officials. They discussed the hostages issue and the fate of Colonel Higgins. Following the meeting, the UN envoy said: We are not sure yet that Col Higgins was hanged.

Goulding also met with the Algerian ambassador, who stated that Goulding had asked for Algeria's assistance in his mission. He added: I stressed to the UN envoy Algeria's readiness to help the United Ntaions in all humanitarian issues, whether this affects Western or Arab and Muslim hostages.

Hizballah's Statement

NC0408145389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Hizballah issued a statement this afternoon, asserting that the Israeli occupation is the cause of all crises and tragedies inflicted on our people and the peoples of the region and the entire world. The party noted that Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is a violation or even a crime against the international forces present in the south and human values.

The party considers the United States an accomplice in the Israeli crimes against both the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples.

Hizballah quotes Marrack Goulding as denouncing the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd and admitting that resistance is an acquired right.

Higgins Said Near Release When 'Ubayd Abducted

NC0408130589 Paris AFP in English 1257 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 4 (AFP)—A Shiite Lebanese leader said Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins was about to be released when Israel abducted a Shiite shaykh in Lebanon last Friday, a London-based periodical reported Friday.

Israel kidnapped Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd as "attempts to release Col. Higgins were approaching success," Amal leader Nabih Birri told the MIDEAST MIRROR by telephone from Damascus. Asked to elaborate, the pro-Syrian leader said, "The Higgins family knows a few things about that."

The Organization of the Oppressed in the World said it hanged Lt. Col. William Higgins on July 31 after Israel failed to meet a deadline for the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd and two of his bodyguards. Israel had abducted the three in a commando raid in south Lebanon last Friday.

Another Lebanese group, the Revolutionary Justice Organization (RJO), said it would kill a second American hostage, Joseph Cicippio, if Israel continued to hold Shaykh 'Ubayd, but on Thursday it suspended its threat.

Mr. Birri said the decision to spare his life followed "pressure from all sides," including Iran, Syria, possibly Algeria and others.

The United States must want turmoil to continue in the region since Israel's abduction of the shaykh came at a time when the forces of moderation were gaining ground in the Middle East, Mr. Birri said.

In a message to U.S. President George Bush, Mr. Birri said he hoped the American people, "if for only once in their history, will get a president who attends to the interests of America, not the interests of Israel."

Any hostile act by the American fleet patrolling waters near Lebanon would be met by defensive action, he warned.

Mr. Birri said Israel should withdraw completely from south Lebanon, where it has established a so-called security zone. This would solve the problem of foreign hostages in Lebanon and help settle the Lebanese civil war, he said.

Al-Musawi: 'We Are Ready' for Americans, Jews

NC0408074889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Husayn al-Musawi has made a statement expressing the nation's feeling of pride and satisfaction that the believers in Lebanon and Palestine have come to face the Zionists, the Americans, and their lackeys in the arena of struggle. Al-Musawi said that it is in the interest of Islam and the Muslims to deepen the conflict and broaden it until it envelops the region.

Al-Musawi said: It is being said that America and Israel may take action against us and may strike and harm us. We reply to this by saying: We are a people destined to fight the unjust and we are ready for the Americans and the Jews. Al-Musawi called on all true Muslims and all honorable free men in the world to stand on the side of those who are wronged, for this is where God stands.

Meanwhile, Al-Musawi added, we hold out a hand of friendship to all the peoples of America, Europe, and the world, for we harbor nothing but amity for the innocent and the humble. We call on these nations to pressure their governments to distance themselves from Israel.

AFP Reports Hizballah Members Leave Homes

NC0308172989 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Bayt Yahun, Lebanon, Aug 3 (AFP)—Hundreds of civilians, mostly refugees from fighting in Beirut, fled Thursday to an Israeli-controlled zone in south Lebanon from fear of a U.S. military strike over the hostage crisis, correspondents said.

Some 3,000 Lebanese have since Sunday crossed the two passages, at Bayt Yahun and Hammarah, to the Israeli "security zone" that runs along the border with Israel, according to regional security sources.

Most of those who have fled were already refugees from the fierce shelling of residential areas since mid-March that has pitted Christian leader General Michel 'Awn against Syrian troops backed by Muslim allies.

"We offer these refugees—some of whom arrive with nothing at all—with a roof, clothes and food," an Israeli lieutenant-colonel, who cannot be named by army regulations, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Several of those who crossed into the security zone, patrolled by Israeli troops and their local militia allies, said they feared a U.S. military strike amid the hostage crisis in which a U.S. officer was reportedly hanged Monday. [passage omitted]

Security sources in Beirut, meanwhile, said that leading figures of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hizballah had all left their normal residences.

Hizballah Fighters Return to Amal Areas

NC0308191489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The AKHBAR AL-YAWM news agency has reported that the Amal Movement has intensified its movements in a number of areas in south Lebanon to avoid any armed friction with Hizballah members and out of fear that the recent agreement reached by Amal and Hizballah, which was sponsored by the Iranian leadership, will collapse.

According to reports received by the same agency, Amal has recently turned a blind eye to the return of armed Hizballah members to southern areas which they had left during the clashes between the two sides. But the large numbers of Hizballah members returning to the south have made Amal fear the occurence of developments that will not be in the interest of the recent agreement. [In a related, Beirut-datelined item transmitted at 1837 GMT on 3 August, Paris AFP in English says, "The Shiite fundamentalist group Hizballah was on a state of alert Thursday in south Lebanon and the eastern al-Biqa' valley for a possible U.S. or Israeli attack, security sources said." AFP later adds, "Fighters of the pro-Iranian Hizballah were deployed around their bases in the Iqlim al- Tuffah region, which borders the security zone, the sources said, as well as the Kafr Falus front near the southern port city of Sidon. Hizballah was on maximum alert in Ba'albak, a Shiite Moslem stronghold in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' valley, but correspondents saw no signs of mobilisation in the Shiite southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital."]

Syrian Air Defenses Reportedly on 'Alert'

JN0308172689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] In accordance with information received in the American capital, Syria has placed its air defense on maximum alert out of fear that the Hizballah party positions in al-Biqa' and the southern suburb of Beirut might be attacked.

More on Syrian Air Alert

NC0408081089 Cairo MENA in English 0724 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—[Passage omitted] AL-JUMHURIYAH reported that bargainings were still continuing, while the American fleet was moving towards the Lebanese and Iranian shores. The paper further noted that the Syrian Air Force has been put in a state of full alert in anticipation of any serious developments, noting that the war of threats has continued between the United States and Hizballah. Iran offered to deliver the body of Higgins in return for the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd, said the paper, adding that the United States did not object to the exchange of hostages for the Shiite prisoners.

In another development, "AL AHRAM" quoted the American NEW YORK TIMES as saying that it was likely that Israel had engineered the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd [in] a bid to divert world attention from the peace efforts in the region. [passage omitted]

'Awn Warns of More Kidnappings, Terrorism

NC0308181489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Commenting on the hostage issue, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said: The international community cannot continue to remain silent over the killing of one hostage after another. He added that he does not expect any reaction from the Western countries and that this will make the kidnappers kill more hostages and maybe kidnap others and perpetrate more terrorist actions. Gen 'Awn stressed the need to punish the kidnappers appropriately.

Israeli Reinforcements Reported in Security Zone

NC0408071889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Zionist occupation forces have moved more reinforcements to the Golan Heights and concentrated motorized troops on the border with Lebanon.

According to the same reports, the occupation forces have sent further military reinforcements to the occupied security zone in the past 24 hours and raised the level of alert in their forward positions. They also set up an assembly point for armored vehicles and long-range artillery in Ibil al-Saqy plain and another assembly point between al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rayhan.

Israeli Sorties Reported Over Sidon, Camps

NC0308144389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the city of Sidon and the Palestinian camps shortly before 1500 today. The warplanes drew antiaircraft fire.

Flights Extend to Mountain

NC0308101889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Israeli fighter aircraft have been carrying out intensive sorties over the south since this morning. They have flown as far north as the mountain area, where they broke the sound barrier at 1235 today.

Clashes Reported in Mountain, Southern Suburb

NC0408065589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] According to the latest security reports, violent clashes involving the use of artillery and machine guns began on the Suq al-Gharb and 'Aytat lines and Hill 888 in the mountain area at 0600 today.

In the southern suburb fierce fighting is taking place on the al-Shiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Matahin, and al-Tayyunah lines. Artillery shells and rockets are falling on residential areas in al-Shiyah and its environs. Residential areas in Bi'r al-'Abd, Harat Hurayk, and al-Shiyah are coming under sniper fire. A cautious calm prevails on the demarcation lines in the capital.

Paper on Israel's Role in 'Terrorist' Acts
JN0408074189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Piracy Is Israel's Official Policy," AL-THAWRAH says in today's editorial that Zionist terrorism is based on pillars that are most detrimental in terms of jeopardizing security and stability and exporting violence, murder, abduction, and piracy to the whole region. The pillars of this most serious terrorism include racism, invasion, and continued aggression to expand the circle of terrorism and to remove the rule of law and international pacts. A fair reading of events in the region and of the causes of these events will lead to the unavoidable conclusion that Israel stands behind every terrorist act and that it considers terrorism an official policy for addressing the world. It is, therefore, impossible for Israel to abandon provocation and violence and to behave against its own nature by quickly abandoning acts of piracy and terrorism.

Had it not carried out the bestial act of abducting Shaykh 'Ubayd, U.S. Colonel William Higgins would not have met a tragic end.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Israel is behind the escalation of tension in the region and is alone responsible for terrorist operations that are condemned by all the world's nations. Let us consider the question: Who benefits from the tension between nations in the world and the region as a result of terrorist acts? We clearly see that Israel alone is the beneficiary.

Accordingly, Israel alone is the planner of organized terrorism and acts of violence. The entire world is called upon to take adequate measures to deter and condemn Zionist terrorism and to isolate and confront Israel to prevent the dangers of its aggression or official policy, which is based on terrorism.

World Community Urged To Condemn Israeli Policy
JN0408140489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since Israel carried out the terrorist act of piracy represented by kidnapping Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the imam of the village of Jibshit in southern Lebanon, the Middle East has entered a state of tension and exacerbation. And the reason, as in every similar state of tension, is the aggressive and terrorist Zionist practices. These practices are the cause of instability, absence of security, obstruction of peace efforts, and rejection of the international community's desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The only way to deter and confront the criminal and terrorist policy of the Zionist enemy that stands behind all this is to besiege this enemy within its aggressive and cancerous hotbed; to intensify the campaigns that are hostile to its disruptive, destructive, and bestial practices in the region; to remove all its political, diplomatic, and military covers in a practical and procedural way; and to put it in a deadly corner without being dragged into its maneuvers, falsehoods, and deceptive policy.

What is happening in the region clearly indicates and affirms that Isreal is always behind the tragedies in the region, in addition to its continuous terrorism and racism against Arab citizens and its rude and impudent disregard of Arab rights. Israel is working and trying to spread its hegemony and control and extend its aggressive and terrorist hand outside occupied Palestine. It is also trying to subjugate southern Lebanon—in fact, all of Lebanon—and turn it into a terrorist base and a scarecrow threatening all the Arabs and threatening regional and world security and peace.

Therefore, when Israel carried out its aggressive act—the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd—it escalated its terrorist measures against the Lebanese villages and areas in the south and intensified its aircraft sorties over Lebanon, particularly in the south, in a provocative and aggressive way. Within the same framework, it is still adding fuel to the fire of fighting, explosions, and destruction practiced by 'Awn and his clique in implementation of the Zionist scheme in Lebanon, supported by the Iraqi regime, which the Zionists are supplying with all facilities and assistance to guarantee the flow of arms to the Zionized clique in Lebanon and to obstruct all ongoing efforts aimed at finding a lasting and effective real solution to the Lebanese crisis—a solution based on tackling the essential and real reasons of this crisis to achieve national reconciliation, implement the required political reforms in the Lebanese system, cancel political sectarianism, liberate the southern land from the Zionist occupation, and end the Zionist state in Lebanon.

The Zionist enemy—for which terrorism forms an integral part of its policy and strategy and a clear characteristic of its stands and measures and the continuation of its entity—can only be deterred by escalating struggle and resistance against all its terrorist, repressive, aggressive, and expansionist pillars; by all Arabs' adherence to their national rights to liberate their land, regain what the enemy usurped by force, massacres, and aggressive and bestial operations; by adopting the option of facing the enemy and confronting its capitulatory plans; and by aborting its political proposals and maneuvers. This is because the Zionist danger does not exclude any Arab individual, any Arab state, or any Arab land. This Zionist danger also constitutes the one main reason for the explosions and tension in the region, whose effects and consequences will endanger world security and peace. And this Zionist danger is also aimed against the existence, future, and social and economic progress of the Arab people.

The Arab nation, which has never hesitated to defend its rights or confront the invaders and occupation, will not retreat from the historical responsibilities dictated by the Arab rights in response to Israeli arrogance. At the same time, the Arab nation calls on the world community with all its countries, quarters, and organizations, to face the Israeli challenges by shouldering their responsibilities, represented by promoting the stands of condemnation and denunciation of the Zionist terrorist policy to firm practical stands that will put an end to the enemy blatancy—or, at least, to expose its policy and deter its conspiratorial and provocative schemes. The efforts and endeavors should concentrate on defusing the explosive situation through putting pressure on the Zionist enemy to accept the conditions and components of achieving a just, lasting peace in the region and to end its odious racist occupation of the Arab territories.

Papers Comment on Role in Lebanon

JN0308063189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Will Foil the Conspiracy," AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Since Syria hastened to respond to the distress call by its brothers 14 years ago, it has embodied for the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people in all their positions and areas the tool that can save them from their plight and the force that is historically and geographically ready to confront all plots, acts of aggression, and schemes of partition and disentegration against Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH continues: These facts have imposed themselves and crystallized a general orientation clearly manifested in the fact that all the Lebanese nationalist forces, which represent the overwhelming majority, have agreed on common denominators starting with adherence to the unity of the Lebanese land and people, going through demands for political reforms guaranteeing justice and equality in rights and duties for all the Lebanese, and ending with emphasis on distinguished relations with Syria—relations that stem from the unified destiny, joint interests, and one people.

AL-BA'TH continues: Israel thought it could sabotage and disturb Syria's salvational role and use its agent mercenaries to explode the situaton as violently as possible once again. In its new calculations, Israel took into consideration the Iraqi regime's planned role in striking at Arab issues. It turned this regime into a basic supplier of arms to the isolationist group in the eastern part of Beirut. 'Awn was forced to admit that his barracks could absorb no more arms. Israel was also forced to publicly admit that there is coordination between it and the Iraqi regime on Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH concludes: This triumvirate can explode the Lebanese situation and cause damage, destruction, and tragedies to Lebanon—the people and the land. But this will be temporary and exceptional, and doomed to the same failure that befell the invasion of Lebanon and the 17 May agreement. Nationalist Lebanon is determined to protect its homeland, and Syria, as leader al-Asad stressed, will continue its salvational role; it will not allow Israel and its agents to implement their dangerous scheme.

Under the headline "Lebanon, the Reality and the Ambition," AL-THAWRAH stresses that the suffering and pain of Lebanon is suffering and pain for Syria. Syria's struggle and the sacrifices of its people and political leadership throughout the years of the Lebanese crisis have partly aimed at providing the requirements for building Lebanon's future on modern and contemporary bases.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: Has Lebanon's destiny ever been isolated from that of the nation to which it belongs and the sister that embraces it from all directions, to justify such isolation today? AL-THAWRAH says: When we underline the distinguished relations between the peoples of the two sisterly countries, Syria and Lebanon, and their historical, geographical, and humanitarian special relationship, then it is because we read history very well and see the future clearly with a deep pan-Arab vision. Syria, therefore, is dedicating its struggle and efforts so that the future can be as great as the ambitions and the pan-Arab structure as big as the aspirations. Those who try to blow up punctured balloons will only reap failure and disappointment, which has happened to others and more than once.

Al-Shar' Sends Letter to SFRY Foreign Minister

JN0308155689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has sent a letter to SFRY Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar on Middle East, Lebanese, and Palestinian developments. The letter was delivered by Assistant Foreign Minister Dia'uldin al-Fattal when he and Loncar met in Belgrade today.

Al-Fattal outlined Syria's views on the items to be discussed by the Nonaligned summit slated to open in the SFRY in early September.

Afghanistan

Harakat-e Eslami Group Joins Government

LD0308191889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Following Najibullah's speech addressed to armed opposition commanders inside the country as well as the resolution of the historical Loya Jirgah in April, today a group of 700 armed and 8,000 unarmed men led by General Ibrahim Beg of the Muhammad Nabi group [Harakat-e Eslami], stopped fighting and joined the national reconciliation process in Ghowr Province. [passage omitted]

The report adds that this group, which was part of the Muhammad Nabi group, is armed with one BM-1 system, four ZK-1 guns, two mortars, one 85mm gun, one DShK's, eight rocket launchers, nine heavy machineguns, a communication system, and 700 light weapons. They will actively participate in ensuring the security of 150 villages.

Non-Agression Pact Signed

BK0408025489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1833 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tagai Timur, Afghanistan, Aug 3 (AFP)—About 700 armed mujahidin rebels in this impoverished central Afghan province Thursday [3 August] signed a non-aggression agreement with the Najibullah government.

The rebels said they had not conveyed their decision to their leaders in Pakistan, with whom links have been weakening in the past three years.

The turbaned fighters have held about 150 square kilometres (60 square miles) of rugged hill terrain encompassing 25 villages.

On Thursday, they made a symbolic turnover of motley weapons to a presidential representative who had flown in from Kabul after the ritual slaughter of a calf, a sheep and a goat. In the presence of foreign journalists, government soldiers and members of President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, their ageing tribal leader Ibrahim Beg said he believed the government in Kabul was now "for the people."

Mr. Beg took up arms against Soviet troops some 11 years ago for the Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami (Movement for the Islamic Revolution) and received arms supplies from Pakistan, bringing them hundreds of kilometres (miles) over the mountains by mule train. He said he had now added his name to a growing number of small mujahidin groups linking themselves with the government.

Mr. Beg's 21,000-member Tajik tribe could not only keep their weapons but would be provided with more to help them in a feud with two other mujahidin groups active in Ghowr Province, the Hezb-e Eslami and the Jamiat-e Eslami, he said.

The tribal leader said he had not been paid cash money, but in the village square were piles of new Soviet waterproof jackets, tin washing and cooking dishes, soap and sacks of grain and flour as well as blankets for the bitter Afghan winter.

A senior Afghan Army officer, who would identify himself only as Lieutenant General Jalal of the Military High Command in Kabul, said after the ceremony that some 5,000 armed men had entered into non-aggression agreements with the government in the past month. The figure could not be confirmed independently as the government has insisted that most mujahidin commanders have asked that their names be kept secret for fear of retribution from other groups. Lt. Gen. Jalal said "thousands" more were simply not fighting government troops.

Mr. Beg said the area had been generally peaceful for several years, and observers who had visited the province during the Soviet troop presence, which ended February 15, said that at that time there appeared to be an understanding between the Soviets and several mujahidin groups.

However, a plane flying government officials and journalists into a neighbouring town for the ceremony set off magnesium flares as protection against American-made Stingers supplied to the mujahidin.

A rocket was fired during the ceremony, landing only 500 metres from the village square where it was held.

Since the Soviet pullout, the Najibullah government has offered all mujahidin groups semi-autonomy and the chance to keep their weapons if they stop fighting the government. Kabul has argued that there is no point in more war now that the Soviets have pulled out.

It has countered mujahidin charges that it is a Soviet-supplied and installed puppet government, saying the only foreign interference in Afghanistan now is from Saudi Arabia, the United States and Pakistan, which finance the mujahidin.

Rebels Renew Rocket Attacks on Kabul 4 Aug

BK0408092189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 4 (AFP)—At least three rockets slammed into Kabul before midday Friday, the first missiles to hit the capital after a four-day respite, witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Eyewitneses said one rocket—apparently aimed at a government television antenna on a high hill—missed and crashed into a hill near the main bazaar in the center of the city.

A government spokesman said at least two rockets landed in the northeastern area of the city, but that while property was damaged there were no immediate reports of casualties.

On Tuesday, the government announced that its security forces had captured 100 Egyptian-made Sakker-20 and Sakker-30 rockets during a sweep of the city's outer suburbs, reducing by "90 per cent" the chance of rockets hitting the city.

The United Nations appealed Thursday for both sides to reduce the fighting.

In July, some 150 people died and more than 500 were injured by rocket fire in one of the most intensive attacks since the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan on February 15.

The Afghan war pits the Soviet-backed government in Kabul of President Najibullah against the Islamic mujahidin, backed by the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Mass Grave With 400 Bodies Found in Bamiyan

BK0408093189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Aug 4 (AFP)—A mass grave containing more than 400 bodies of people allegedly killed by government forces has been uncovered near Bamiyan city in central Afghanistan, a pro-mujahidin news agency said here Friday.

'Abdul Husayn Rizwani, a member of the pro-Iranian Harakat-e Eslami group who had just returned from the area, was quoted here by the Afghan Media Resource Center as saying the bodies had been "buried by a bulldozer" near Bamiyan airport, 130 kilometres (80 miles) northwest of Kabul, after violent battles "between the people and the soldiers of Muhammad Taraki" in 1979.

Muhammad Taraki, leader of the Democratic Party of the Afghan People, seized power in an April 1978 coup against Prince Muhammad Da'ud, eight months before the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union was the first government to recognize Mr. Taraki's "Revolutionary Council," which no sooner took power than it was confronted with popular uprisings in several provinces including Bamiyan.

Mr. Rizwani said the mass grave, holding people killed in a "massacre" by Mr. Taraki's troops in May 1979, "had been leveled so that the site could not be found," he said. Mr. Rizwani, quoting witnesses, said some 600 additional bodies were believed buried at sites near Bamiyan and that search efforts were underway.

He said that the mujahidin currently controlled the region and that he went there last month with Shaykh Asef Mohseni, head of the Harakat-e Eslami, who managed to convince the local residents to hold funeral services conforming to "the rules of Islam."

Mr. Rizwani said he had invited humanitarian organizations, particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross and Amnesty International, to visit the grave sites. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces, Extremist Clashes Reported

LD0408100189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0446 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 3, BAKHTAR—As a result of mopping up operations of the armed forces carried out in different directions of Jalalabad city a large amount of arms and ammunition fell at the hands of the armed forces yesterday, an authorised source of the armed forces told to a BAKHTAR reporter.

Due to the enemy fire, supported by the 11th Pakistani Corps on the security posts and residential areas in the outskirts of the city a servicemen was wounded. The Jalalabad garrison retaliated and killed 26 enemies and wounded 27 others.

The source added that during the attacks of the armed forces on the enemy positions in the Khowst Grand District and Qandahar and Laghman Provinces 31 extremists, including an extremists ringleader, were killed and 21 others wounded.

According to another report during the severe clashes which took place between the Gulbuddin and his rival groups in the suburbs of Khowst grand district recently. 12 extremists were killed and 10 others injured.

Air Missions on Rebel Targets Near Kabul

LD0408083689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 3, BAKHTAR—Tranquillity which is prevailing in Kabul city during the past three days, is the result of the mopping up operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in order to frustrate further extremist rocket attacks on the city, an authorized security source told to BAKHTAR reporter today.

The source added, since Tuesday, August 1st, 380 air missions on suspected regions from where rockets were fired on Kabul citizens, have been done. The operations

with the suppo
carried out on Pa of artillery and rocket forces, were on the same dis ghman valley, 20 km west of Kabul and the city. ances on east and on the south-east of

To prevent extr
expand the secu emists rocket attacks, it is planned to It is because of ity belt of Kabul city, the source added. fires of heavy we this reason that since three nights, the with firm convic apons from several directions of Kabul, the sleep of its it ion, devoted to that regions, disturbed nhabitants, the source stated.

Earlier, followin
a large number g the severe and repeated rocket attacks, demanded the st of affected and victims of these events to respond eve ate of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) towards Kabul by single rocket of the enemy firing y ten rockets.

Since three day
started sit-in pr , a large number of Kabul residents Good Services otest in front of the office of the UN (UNGOMAP), i Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan the UN vis-a-vi which they protested on the silence of responsible [as is the rocket attacks on the city. A today that the re received] of the UNGOMAP said here be handed over sponse of the Un secretary general will who continue sit to the appeal of Kabul City marchers this afternoon, t -in protest opposite the mission's office he source concluded.

Airplane Crash
LD0308180189 **es; All Passengers Safe**
1530 GMT 3 Au Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto g 89

[Text] The Mi
BAKHTAR tha nistry of Civil Aviation reported to Afghan Airline, a 32-passenger Yak-40 of the Ariana scheduled cours carrying 20 passengers, deviated from its capital of Badgh e from Kabul to Qal'eh-ye Now, the a foodstuff han is. It landed at 1145 hours crashed into fortunately, all t ger. The plane was totally destroyed; he passengers are safe.

On the basis o
selected commiss f a preliminary investigation by the of Civil Aviatic sion on security of flights of the Ministry accident was cau n, which inspected the accident, the of the accident ised by pilot error. An accurate account was made after the investigation.

Paper Assesses
PM0308092089 **Mujahidin Government Split**
in Arabic 30 Jul London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 89 pp 1-2

[Ahmad Zayda
Mujahidin Gove report: "Farkhar Massacres Splits ernment"]

[Text] Peshawar,
development wa AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In a serious mujahidin gove ning of the collapse of the transitional bani, reconstruct nment, Professor Burhanuddin Rab- ment and leader tion minister in the transitional govern- suspension of t of the Islamic Society, has urged the headed by Eng he membership of the Islamic Party Golbuddin Hekmatyar, foreign minister in the transitional government, until a judicial committee is formed to investigate the "Farkhar massacre" which claimed the lives of 30 mujahidin from the society, including a number of its senior leaders, and which was carried out early this month by elements belonging to the Islamic Party.

Professor Rabbani's demand came in a statement in which he described the Farkhar incident as "a serious plot designed to get rid of the society's prominent leaders." Party sources say that the incident was an isolated retaliatory operation prompted by fear of a plan prepared by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the society's strongest commander in north Afghanistan, to eliminate the Islamic Party's presence. But in the strongest attack of its kind on the party, Professor Rabbani urged Hekmatyar "not allow himself or his military commanders to cause such tragedies in the jihad's history." In his statement Rabbani wondered: How can Hekmatyar, who is urging general elections in the country, present voters with such massacres? The statement called on the mujahidin government to "condemn the crime and bring the murderers to justice."

Yesterday morning the Islamic Society held a general meeting, which was supposed to be headed by its leader Professor Rabbani, who did not attend. Nearly 8,000 mujahidin and refugees attended the meeting. It was noted that the participants included Ahmad Gaylani, chief justice in the transitional government and leader of the National Islamic Front. Relations between Gaylani and Hekmatyar are known to have worsened since the latter accused the former of planning to bring back Zahir Shah.

A series of rousing speeches were followed by a news conference, which was supposed to have been given by Professor Rabbani. However, he was replaced by Amad Ru'in, commander of Takhar Province. He was clearly emotional when he spoke of the massacre. During his speech he introduced a letter, which he said he had received from Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, explaining the details of the massacre.

In answer to a question, Ru'in said: "We demand a comprehensive investigation of every incident that takes place, not only those that occurred in the past.

Asked whether such operations and the growth of the mujahidin dispute would divert attention from the Najib regime, the Takhar commander said: "We do not want to divert people's attention from the crimes committed by the regime and the Soviets, but the internal situation has changed following the killing of so many of commanders, and this must be made known to the world."

On the effect of such incidents on international support for the mujahidin, Ru'in said: "We want the world to condemn such incidents, but it should not affect their support for us."

Observers in Peshawar fear the possibility of the society's carrying out retaliatory operations against the party, especially after some Islamic Party sources said that the society had received a message from Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, urging it to "avenge the death of the Farkhar martyrs." And the situation would worsen further if the transitional mujahidin government failed to reach a decision regarding the operation. Furthermore, it is not unlikely that the society will pull out of the government if it fails to reach a resolute decision to punish those who committed the massacres.

It is known that Islamic Party leader Hekmatyar strongly condemned the incident and urged unity among the mujahidin ranks. Muhammad Musa Yaqin, an official of the party's political committee, stated that the party is not responsible for the operation. He said: We thought that Sayyid Jamal—leader of the group that carried out the operation—had joined Mas'ud.

Opposition Group Seeks Negotiations To End War
LD0408082889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0500 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 3, BAKHTAR—The Presidential Office reports to BAKHTAR that an opposition group named "Revolutionary Society of the People of Afghanistan", "RSPA", has sent a statement recently on behalf of the leadership of the said organisation in a sealed envelope to the responsible authorities of the Repubic of Afghanistan. The statement says in part that the said group has so far functioned in the military and civil areas in the capital and provinces of the country against the government.

It adds that our country is faced with great problems and in order to ease them the society is ready to send its representative for negotiation with the state's leadership provided that the immunity of its representative is guaranteed.

The statement has asked the Afghan authority to publish its statement without censorship as its content has not been revealed to any journalists, embassy or any world community.

While replying to the statement of the said society, the Afghan authorities make it clear that if the said society really wants to negotiate for ceasing war and ensuring peace it can contact, without any fear, the republic's authorities and the Afghan Government guarantees the full immunity of the society's representative.

It should be pointed out that the society is not the only organisation which wants to get in touch with the government's authorities. But some other opposition organisations and groups have sent their representatives for entering into talks with the government and after holding talks have safely returned to their areas. The Republic of Afghanistan will also observe the same procedure in regard to the representatives of the said society in accordance with the patriotic policy of national reconciliation.

Thus, the leadership of the Revolutionary Society of the People of Afghanistan may contact with the Afghan concerned authorities through the presidential office.

Opposition Rejection of Peace Talks Cited
LD0408084189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 3, BAKHTAR—The opposition groups will not accept any efforts of foreign countries even though it would lead to achieve peace in Afghanistan. Reported the radio Voice of America quoted a statement of the heads of the opposition groups released yesterday in Peshawar on the recent talks of the Soviet Union and the United States on the situation around Afghanistan held in Stockholm. [sentence as received]

The report said that the heads of the extremist opposition groups had also rejected the mediation of a Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization "PLO."

Political observers believe in that the heads of the opposition extremist groups are prepared to shed the blood of more Afghans but are not ready to give up the privileges which they have obtained from Americans, Pakistanis and Saudi Arabia.

The same radio reports that revenge-seeking and conflicts between the rival bands of Jamiat and Golbuddin have been heightened after the assassination of Jamiat ringleaders in Takhar Province. During the past days, peoples belonging to Jamiat band attacked on the centres of Golbuddin's bands in Badakhshan Province and killed over 100 persons belonging to Golbuddin band.

Another report from the Voice of America says that the Jamiat band in Konduz Province also attacked on Gulbuddin's people killing 55 persons including four of its commanders. The Voice of America reports that fighting between the followers the two groups in other parts are also continuing.

Mojadeddi has called Golbuddin as a professional terrorists and has considered him responsible for the massacre of the leaders of Jamiat band in (?Takhar) Province. [Word indistinct] contrary, Golbuddin in his recent interview with the Voice of America has condemned Rabbani and Mojadeddi for staging irrelevant propaganda against his band.

The amazing point in the interview is that Golbuddin as a socalled minister of foreign affairs in Rawalpindi, government has asked Mojadeddi, the so-called head

that government to apologise from Golbuddin, otherwise he will not accept his chairmanship to the said government even for a moment. Golbuddin also adds that the set period for the interim government has ended and if elections do not take place he will no long recognize this government and will boycott its so-called sessions.

Group Leadership Sends Statement to Government

LD0308210989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The Presidential Press Office of the Republic of Afghanistan told BAKHTAR that a sealed envelope entitled "Statement of the Jamiat-e Enqalabi-e Mardom-e Afghanistan, JAMA," was handed over a few days ago to officials of the Republic by a delegation from JAMA. The following is the text of the enclosed document:

Statement of Jamiat-e Enqalabi-e Mardom-e, JAMA, Kabul, Afghanistan.
Dated 23 July 1989.
In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. JAMA has made advances both in the military and the civilian sphere and both in the center and in the provinces. It has done so by using the wrath and indignation of the people against the infidels and in this way received the satisfaction of God. Its expert techniques have been both covert and clever, and it has never separated itself from the Muslim and honorable people.

Our homeland is currently a center of serious tension which can only be eased by fulfilling the aspirations of the people, not with deceitful words or wrong and satanic promises. JAMA wants to present a series of directives and ways to implement them with the present government only to find ways to create true peace. This is in accordance with its responsibility toward God and the people.

If the government—which has often announced the freedom of speech, ideas, and expression and the freedom of activities for parties and organizations—is ready to hear these directives and our ideas about their implementation, then we will appoint a representative because of the endless pain of the people. Our only condition is for the government not to arrest our representative or torture him and to promise to allow us to explain and shed light on our ideas, demands and principles that our based on the rights of our Muslim people from which we receive our inspiration. However the government should not resort to deceit, cheating and vain excuses. If it does it will be left with empty hands.

Furthermore, if the state chooses to be inattentive, fearful, silent, and indifferent toward us, then JAMA—along with all its committees and its great guerrilla force and headstrong and selfsacrificing group—will put the issue before more authoritative sources in the world because it is our duty to do so before the suffering Afghan people. We would reveal all the bitter facts of our people's lives and other criminal issues which have been imposed on our people. We will not remain indifferent before irresponsible instructions.

Therefore, it is better that one honestly follow the people's demands and listen to the demands and requests of the people which we will reveal to you on behalf of the people. We have not yet given this statement to any journalist, embassy representative, or any international source. We await hearing this statement on radio and television as soon as possible without changes or alterations.
[Signed] The JAMA Leadership

Esteemed Radio Afghanistan listeners, you have just heard the JAMA statement without any changes and alteration.

If this organization really wants to talk and negotiate to end war and ensure peace, it should contact the state directly without fear. The state is ready to ensure the security of any representative of this organization. JAMA is not the only organization which wishes to establish contact with the state. Various organizations, groups, and several opposition personalities have sent representatives and have returned to their localities with full security.

The state will observe the same policy, which emanates from its humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, with the representative or representatives of the Jamiat-e Enqelabi-e Mardomi-e Afghanistan.

The JAMA delegation can establish contact with the relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan via the Presidential Office.

India

Minister Reiterates Position on U.S. Trade Act

BK0408090589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] India has expressed the hope that wisdom will prevail upon the United States not to pursue with its unilateral decision against India under the Super 301 provision of the U.S. Trade Act. The commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, told the Lok Sabha today that if the U.S. pursues with its action, the matter will be taken up in the multilateral fora. He was replying to points raised by members during a calling attention motion moved by Mr G.S. Rajhans, Congress-I, and others.

Mr Dinesh Singh reiterated India's stand that it will not participate in any negotiation with the U.S. under the threat of retaliation. He pointed out that America has been the largest trading partner with India and its investment in India has doubled in the recent years.

Talks With Sri Lanka 'Satisfactory' So Far

BK0308155489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The high-level consultation between India and Sri Lanka on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement continued in New Delhi for the 6th day today. The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, had another round of discussions with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, while the officials of the two countries held detailed talks throughout the morning session on the various elements of devolution of powers to the northeastern council and the deinduction of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF].

An official spokesman told newsmen that the talks so far are satisfactory. Replying to queries, the spokesman said that the discussions might continue tomorrow also. The Sri Lankan delegation is scheduled to leave for Colombo tomorrow evening.

Our correspondent understands that one of the major points of discussions was about the mechanism to ensure the safety and security of all communities in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, reports received in Colombo say 26 persons were killed in violent incidents by JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] activists in the last 24 hours. Five LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants were shot dead by the PKF in an encounter near Velvettiturai in the Jaffna sector during the last 24 hours. According to information reaching New Delhi, the exchange of fire continued for about 3 hours. Six PKF men were killed and some injured; some civilians also lost their lives in the cross-fire. In Trincomalee sector, seven LTTE men, including a hard-core militant, have surrendered to the PKF. With this, 14 militants have surrendered in the last 3 weeks.

LTTE Plot To Kill Tamil Nadu Leaders Noted

BK0408072289 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 24 Jul 89 p 8

[Text] Madras, 24 July—The Tamil Nadu police have been directed to strike a counterblow to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] and to protect Tamil Nadu leaders.

The police have received information that LTTE suicide squads have infiltrated into Tamil Nadu with the ulterior motive of assassinating some Tamil Nadu leaders. The LTTE has hatched a plot to assassinate the Tamil Nadu leaders and newspaper editors who have been supporting the Indian peacekeeping force and the Indo-Sri Lanka accord, and speaking against the LTTE"s extremist tendencies. The Tamil Nadu Government and senior police officials have received reliable information that the suicide squads have infiltrated into Tamil Nadu to execute their murderous designs. Following this, as per Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Karunanidhi's instructions to senior police officials, armed police guards were posted at the residences of the former speaker of the Tamil Nadu legislative council, M.P. Sivagnanam, and the editor of TUGLAK, Mr Cho Ramaswamy. The deputy inspector general [DIG] of police intelligence branch, Jaffar Ali, visited their houses yesterday morning and discussed security arrangements. Thereafter, an inspector of police and five constables of the armed constabulary were posted at their residences for protection. The DIG of police, Jaffar Ali, inspected their constables on duty yesterday afternoon.

There are around-the-clock police patrols along the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu to prevent infiltration by the LTTE. Police officers and constables in all Tamil Nadu police stations have been alerted. They have been instructed to monitor the movements of LTTE members or their accomplices to guard against any terrorist activities. Armed police patrols have been instituted on the coastal areas of Vedaranyam, Kodiyakkarai, and Kodikkal, from where LTTE members used to infiltrate into Tamil Nadu.

'Po -ful' Bomb Reportedly Kills 4 in Assam

BK0 08020289 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 3 Aug 0130 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Four persons were killed on the spot and two others injured in a powerful bomb blast at Turianpada Bazaar near Bongaigaon Town in Goalpara District of Assam last evening. However, official sources in Guwahati have confirmed the death of one person in the incident. Details are awaited. Senior police officials have left for the site of the incident to investigate.

Auditor General on Bofors Gun Deal Report

BK0308161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] The comptroller and auditor general [CAG], Mr T.N. Chaturvedi, has said that no political considerations had influenced him while preparing the CAG report on the Bofors gun deal. He told newsmen in Jaipur today that he had prepared the report sincerely and honestly on the basis of facts and documents placed before him. Mr Chaturvedi added that he had only fulfilled his constitutional obligations.

'Massive' Plan To Improve AIR External Service

BK0308161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] All India Radio [AIR] will take up a massive plan in the next 2 years to improve the quality and reception of its external service. The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr S. Krishna Kumar, now visiting Zimbabwe, told members of the Indian community in Harare that over 100 crore rupees will be spent on the program.

Livestock, Agriculture Pact Signed With Bhutan

BK0308161789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] India and Bhutan have signed an agreement to jointly undertake a development project for increasing livestock and agricultural production in the Gaylegphug area of southern Bhutan. The project, which is a command area of 110 square kilometers, is aimed at bringing new areas under irrigation, strengthening existing irrigation canals, providing river bank protection and assisting in soil conservation. The agreement was signed yesterday in Thimpu by the deputy planning minister of Bhutan, Mr (Dasoshi Dorji), and the Indian ambassador to Bhutan, Mr Nareshwar Dayal. India will provide technical and managerial expertise for the project worth 5 crore 16 lakh rupees.

Agriculture Minister on Monsoon Season Aftermath

BK0408015889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1924 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 3 (AFP)—Monsoon rains and floods have killed at least 1,200 people and uprooted more than a million across India in the last two months, officials and press reports said Thursday [3 August].

Agriculture Minister Bhajan Lal told Parliament the government was considering "a national plan" to combat floods, an annual feature in India, but that the details had not been worked out. He said more than 1,200 Indians had died after the monsoon started in early June this year.

Floods have also washed away homes and caused extensive damage to tea and other crops, news reports have said.

Mr. Lal said 850 were killed in the worst-hit state of Maharashtra on the western coast, where an additional 150 fishermen went missing in the stormy Arabian Sea. New Delhi had given 3,390 million rupees (211 million dollars) in relief to flood and storm victims in 10 states, Mr. Lal said.

The minister did not give breakdowns of deaths in other states, but the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) has said 130 died in Andhra Pradesh on the southeastern coast, followed by southernmost Kerala with 70 and northern Uttar Pradesh with 55. Another 87 died in Gujarat, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, PTI said.

More than a million people were uprooted in northeastern Assam where the monsoon-fed Brahmaputra River and its tributaries swamped an estimated 300,000 hectares (720,000 acres) of land, PTI said.

Floods had also caused extensive damage to tea gardens in Assam, which borders Bangladesh, the news agency said. In Maharashtra, State Chief Minister Sharagvpawar was quoted by PTI as saying some 47,760 houses had collapsed and a total of 6,800 cattle perished.

In the tiny northeastern states of Mizoram and Manipur, floods uprooted at least 30,000 residents, PTI said. An official release said the army had rescued more than 2,600 marooned people in Assam and Manipur.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani 'Ready To Help' in Lebanon

LD0408120789 Tehran IRNA in English 1202 GMT 4 Aug 89

["Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Hostage Crisis Can be Solved, Iran Willing To Help"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—There is a logical way to solve the hostage crisis triggered by the Israeli kidnapping of a Lebanese religious leader without resorting to force, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Friday [4 August].

Addressing the U.S. President George Bush's administration he said: "There is a reasonable way to free the hostages and you cannot do anything with this sort of reaction and bullying." Hashemi-Rafsanjani was apparently referring to Washington's reported plan to "retaliate" with military action if the execution threat against and American hostage in Lebanon was carried out.

He said use of force by the Americans in Lebanon had proved to be useless in the past and the U.S. should use its head this time. The Islamic Republic was ready to help too. "Come and be reasonable. We will also help to solve the issues (in Lebanon) so that the people of the region can live in peace and quiet," he said in his Friday prayer sermon in Tehran.

U.S. warships in the Mediterranean have reportedly been ordered to sail towards Lebanon to carry out strikes if a group calling itself the Revolutionary Justice Organization executes Joseph Cicippio, an American hostage.

The group has demanded the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd a prominent local religious leader in South Lebanon, who was kidnapped on July 28 by Israeli commandos and taken to Israel.

Another Lebanese undergroup group has claimed that it killed U.S. Marine officer, Lt. Col. William Higgins, because Tel Aviv refused to free 'Ubayd.

"You cannot condemn the innocent people of Lebanon.. .on the vague basis that some group has possibly killed someone (Higgins) for a crime," Hashemi-Rafsanjani,

who was confirmed as president on Thursday said. But he said Israeli terrorism which caused the present crisis was as clear as day. Now the key to getting rid of it was to set 'Ubayd free.

"If the arrogant world is interested, the way to solve the issue is to tell Israel to release Shaykh 'Ubayd. If (the U.S.) responds by saying that '('Ubayd's abduction) has nothing to do with us and that we cannot put pressure on Israel', this isn't acceptable to us."

He said the Bush administration had forgotten the failure of past American military interventions in Lebanon when it decided to order U.S. battleships to sail towards the civil war-ravaged country.

"You have moved your warships towards Lebanon, neglecting to remember that you had come to Lebanon once before and you saw how the people of Lebanon kicked you out," the president said.

Two hundred and forty one American Marines were killed when their headquarters in Beirut was destroyed by a truck bomb in October 1983, prompting then President Reagan to withdraw U.S. forces from Lebanon.

The former head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee also criticized Washington for threatening action against the Lebanese people for the yet unconfirmed killing of Col. Higgins.

"If he has been killed, I express regret," said deputy from Tehran Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali, in a speech before Hashemi-Rafsanjani's sermon.

"But there's no reason why the American President should threaten Muslims when there still is no clear proof about (Higgins' killing)."

Khalkhali said the U.S. support for the Israeli abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd had resulted in nothing but the spread of Israeli-sponsored terrorism and a regional crisis.

Further on Sermon

LD0408121789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] In their massive gathering at Tehran University and the adjacent streets the people of Tehran observed the Muhammadan tradition of the politico-religious Friday prayers under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In the Friday prayer sermons Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained the immortal uprising of the lord of the faithful, on the occasion of the month of Moharram which is the month in which blood succeeded over sword. He then spoke on some of the vast dimensions of the divine uprising of His Holiness Husayn Ibn-'Ali and his followers.

Later, referring to the vast attendance of the nation at the presidential elections and the referendum on constitutional amendments, the elected president of the nation said: Despite the wish and the expectations of global infidelity, the revolution has continued its course in accordance with the prophecies of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, even after his demise. The revolution is continuing just as the imam of the ummah wished. Today we are witnesses to the stability of the revolution and Islam in Iran and in the world.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the many propaganda tricks that various countries in the world usually employ to entice people to elections. These tricks are intended to create individual or collective motives among the people to go to the polls. He then said: The presidential election and the referendum on constitutional amendments provided one of the most telling and educational scenes. Throughout the country our people went to the polls motivated solely by their faith, conviction, and thoughts. They did so in order to continue the course of the revolution and Islam. The freest conditions and election were available for the people to participate in the elections. There was no pressure or any kind of propaganda deception.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: In addition to the presidential elections the people, who had already followed on radio and television the debates at the meetings of the council for the reappraisal of the Constitution, demonstrated the crystallization of their sincerity and absolute trust in the government officials by their vast and active participation in the referendum for constitutional amendments. There was so much freedom in the election that some of the people did not participate in the presidential election but voted on the constitution.

The president added: Relying on the backing of the votes of the people, the government will have at its disposal the best kind of support from the nation. At present there are the right conditions are available in the country for the officials and the government to be appointed to work and be active.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred in his second sermon to the unity and solidarity of the people in continuing the course and the sovereignty of Islam and the Koran as well as the discouragement of the enemies of Islam and the revolution. He said: During the imposed war more than half of the country's resources were devoted to the war. Now we can spend annually approximately $2 billion in foreign exchange, which used to be spent on the war, for the reconstruction of the country. By drawing up and implementing the 5-year plans which are being prepared and in the implementation of development projects we will prevent duplication and unnecessary expenditures. Meanwhile, a short-term plan will be implemented to reduce economic pressures on the deprived and low-income groups and the salaried class. Together with that

project we plan to provide the necessary resources for all the factories and production centers throughout the country to work at full capacity.

Continuing his second sermon, the president referred to the issue of Lebanon and the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, the Friday imam of Jibshit, by the agents of the Zionist regime. He said: The kidnapping of the Friday imam of Jibshit is to be condemned according to international laws and regulations. The fact that the regime occupying Jerusalem admits to its hostage-taking is to ridicule all international laws. We do not make any judgment regarding the group that has executed the American colonel; but if the United States wishes to act, it should ask Israel to release the Friday imam of Jibshit.

One should ask the United States why, instead of dealing with the original criminal and guilty party, namely the Zionist regime, it has moved its fleet toward the waters of Lebanon. The United States witnessed how the Lebanese expelled it from their country. Apart from all the shells which Michel 'Awn is pouring upon the heads of the Lebanese people, the United States cannot do anything else. They are mistaken to want to bring the Maronite regime to power in the Lebanon. The day that Israel was established in occupied Palestine there was no Islamic Iran. Today the Muslims of the world have awakened as the result of the Islamic revolution. There are sensible ways to solve the Lebanese issue and free the hostages, and the United States cannot solve the problems of Lebanon through bullying and tyranny.

Beirut Embassy Denies Paper's Allegations

LD0308170289 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 3 IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here today strongly refuted "baseless allegations" by the Lebanese weekly AL-DYAR claiming American officials had been warned through the embassy that Colonel William Higgins' body would be handed over to them provided that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd was freed. Higgins was reportedly executed Monday by the Organization of the Oppressed of the World in retaliation for Israel's refusal to release Shaykh 'Ubayd, Friday prayer leader of Jibshit village kidnapped by Israeli troops last Friday.

The weekly, printed in Eastern Beirut, raised the claim Thursday under a column titled "Secret".

UN Official Meets Envoy, Lebanon's Mufti

LD0308173189 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 3, IRNA—United Nations Undersecretary General Marrack Goulding and Iranian Charge d'Affaires Hoseyn Nikam discussed regional issues at the Iranian Embassy here today. Goulding also conferred with Lebanon's Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan here on the same day.

"We called for the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, since his abduction by the Zionist regime will only make us more decisive in our struggle against the Zionist occupiers," Shaykh Qabalan said after the meeting. He described Israel as a terrorist regime.

Referring to the execution of the U.S. Colonel William Higgins Qabalan said "We are again abduction, massacre and terrorist operations against innocent people." [sentence as received] He said he had also discussed Higgins execution in the meeting with Goulding.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Takes Oath as President

LD0308114789 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 3 Aug 89

["Hashemi-Rafsanjani Takes Oath as Iran's Fourth President (With Quotes From Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khamene'i)"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was officially sworn in as Iran's new president Thursday, assured that he would tread the same path as that of the late Imam Khomeyni.

"I am sure the people's vote to the president is a vote for the continuation of the path of the revolution and of the imam," he said after he was confirmed by leader Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The confirmation statement was read at Jamaran Mosque by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of the late imam, who ratified the election of two presidents at the same mosque in north Tehran. The imam died on June 3.

"I confirm the people's vote to the honorable Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani... knowing the stature and rank of this sincere follower of the imam," leader Khamene'i's statement. [sentence as received]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected by a massive majority in the July 28 presidential election.

The former Majlis speaker has put economic issues on top of his agenda, pledging to cut the government's role in the flagging economy, open the doors for greater private investment. He has also promised to better and expand Iran's foreign relations.

In a brief address to a gathering of top officials and senior religious leaders, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that he would continue where the founder of the Islamic Republic left off.

"Desite the propaganda coming from the arrogant world powers that our people will not accept anything but the continuation of this path which is the path of Islam and the Koran," he said. [sentence as received]

The leader, in a speech, reminded the nation that they should not expect imme diate results.

The new administrati on which will govern with enhanced powers unde the presidency according to changes in the Constitut ion, also ratified by the people last Friday.

"I am hopeful that this administration with the help of the people can open the problematic knots and pave the way (towards progress)," the ayatollah said. But he added: "At the same time this idea should not be induced into the societ y that all problems would be solved right away. This will need planning, effort, the people's help and variou s initiatives."

In interviews prior to hi s election, Hashemi-Rafsanjani mentioned unemployme nt, inflation, and restrictions facing the private sector as some of the nation's most important problems.

But leader Khamene'i s tressed that the new chapter started with Hashemi-R afsanjani's election did not mean that Iran was turni ng to new policies.

"A new era, if it means turning against the main line drawn by our dear imam , will never come in our revo lution... America and o ther arrogant enemies in the world...will take this dre im to the grave."

The daily JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI Thursday described the swearing in ceremony as a great event in the history of the Iranian people w hile the daily ABRAR said it heralded a new era for the Islamic Republic. "The people take (Hashemi-Rafsanjan i's election) as a good omen and hope to see positive developments, solidarity and the start of a constructi ve age in the coming days," ABRAR commented.

In his confirmation state ment, leader Khamene'i urged Hasehmi-Rafsanjani to solve the nation's problems, most important of all the hardship facing the poor. "This confirmation is until he (H ashemi-Rafsanjani) continues on the same straight and shiny path in defence of pure Mohammadan Islam and strives for complete realization of koranic rule, implemen tation of shari'a... and uproot ing poverty and establish ing social justice."

He also stressed that the president must bear in mind "Islam's dignity and grea tness and the Islamic Repub lic's political, economic and social independence" in foreign policy matters.

The ayatollah, was selecte d leader on June 4, a day after Imam Khomeyni passed away. His second four-year term as president came to an end Thursday, two months earlier, to allow the new administration to start work sooner.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who turns 55 on August 25, was voted president by a massive majority, winning more than 15.5 million votes (94.5 percent) on July 28. On the same day the 97 percent of people approved constitutional reforms which give greater authority to the president at the expense of the prime minsiter whose post has been abolished.

The ceremony at Jamaran Mosque was similar to those conducted by the late imam in 1981 and 1985, for the late president Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and President Khamene'i. Only this time Ayatollah Khamene'i was playing the leading role.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani hinted that his long friendship with Khamene'i would be an important asset for his new administration. "My cooperation with the great leader (Khamene'i) in the past 30 years has been with honesty, sincerity, harmony amd unanimity," he said. "Till this day...we have been together in the most difficult situations and not even once have we allowed doubts creep into our hearts in carrying out our divine duties."

In his statement, leader Khamene'i paid a glowing tribute to the former Majlis speaker whom he has worked closely with since the early days of the Islamic movement against the monarchy in the 1960s.

He described the former Majlis speaker as a man who had made sacrifices in God's path and who had always been a trusted aide to the late imam, and favored by the people.

"I thank God the with will of [as received] our dear people, this heavy divine responsibility has rested on the able shoulders of a great man from among Islam's children and the followers of the glorious imam," he said. "(Hashemi-Rafsanjani is a) mujahid, an Islamic scholar, a wise politician and a sincere manager, aware of the problems."

The ceremony was watched by senior religious leaders grand Ayatollahs Mohammad 'Ali Araki, Mohammad Reza Golpayegani, Shahoboddin Marashi Najafi.

Other senior officials were also present including Prime Minister Huseyn and his cabinet members, Chief Justice Adulkarim Musavi Ardebili, commanders of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards and members of the Council of Guardians.

Inaugural Ceremony Detailed

LD0308140389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Excerpts] During a special ceremony held this morning in the Jamaran Hoseyniyeh. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

confirmed the decree read by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni concerning the presidency of Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The ceremony was attended by the following: members of his holiness the imam's secretariat ahd household; staff from the president's office; members of the households of Grand Ayatollahs Araki, Golpayegani, and Mar'ashi-Najafi; members of Majlis Executive Committees; the chief justice and members of the Supreme Judicial Council; the prime minister and cabinet members together with their deputies; members of the Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution; the commander in chief's headquarters staff and members of the Supreme Defense Council; personnel of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the mobilization, Islamic revolution committees, the police and the Gendarmerie; instructors from Qom religious seminaries; members of Tehran's Combatant Clergy and the Association of Tehran's Combatant Clergy; members of the Council of Guardians; representatives of the vali-e faqih and the Friday prayers leaders of provinces; the central secretariat of Friday prayer leaders; Hojjat ol-Eslam Falsafi and other preachers; the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution; the supervising council; the director-general and deputies from the Voice and Vision of Iran; staff from IRNA and the publicity headquarters, as well as the press; the holy jihad; the Islamic Revolution Martyr's Foundation; the Foundation of Islamic Revolution's Selfless Devotees; the 15 Khordad Foundation; the Imam's Relief Committee; governors general from all over the country; Tehran's municipal officials, the Armed Forces' Prosecutor's Office; the Central Bank; the Red Crescent staff; the headquarters in charge of the organization of Friday prayers; the Hajj, Endowment, and Charity Affairs Organization; the Islamic Publicity Office; the Supreme Council of Publicity; Qom's Islamic Publicity Office; the supervising committee of foreign religious seminary students; the Islamic open university; the Imam Sadiq University; the Islamic Revolution Documentation Center; staff from politico-ideological departments of the Armed Forces and the police; the Council for Coordination Among Institutions; representatives of the leader in universities; the High Council for Selection; the housing foundation; the literacy movement; the Chamber of Commerce; the Central Guilds Council; the Association of Guilds Affairs; the elections headquarters of the Interior Ministry; the Council of Guardians' headquarters for supervision of elections; the Executive Committee for Elections in Tehran; and Tehran's supervising committee of the Council of Guardians.

During the ceremony, Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the dear son of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, read the text of a statement concerning the confirmation of Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president of the Republic. We draw your attention to the details of that ceremony:

[Begin recording] [Ahmad Khomeyni] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Before anything else, I would like to welcome our dear and popular leader, this great man of holy crusade and source of religious emulation [ejtehad], His Eminence Ayatollah Khomene'i, may his benefits continue, and the dear and popular president his eminence Hashemi, as well as you dear brothers and sisters.

It is true that today you have entered a residence in which you see the chair of your imam empty. [sounds of wailing] It is true that this dear congregation, whenever they came here before, used to meet their dear imam. However, we thank God that beside that chair, there is a chair which is designated for the imam's brave and beloved child and our great leader. I would like to thank all of you dear ones. Then I would like to read the text of reports provided by the Interior Ministry and the Council of Guardians, as well as the text on confirmation of the people's vote written by our great leader. The letter from the dear interior minister to the leader of the revolution:

In the name of the exalted. To the blessed presence of the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, his Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his shadow extend. With respect I would like to inform you that by the will of the exalted God, in implementation of the first clause of Article 9 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the fifth presidential elections were held in accordance with legal procedures on Friday 6 Mordad 1368 [28 July 89]. As a result, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin His Eminence 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected as the fourth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, winning an absolute majority of 15,551,783 votes out of the total of 16,454,641 votes inside the country and abroad.

In view of the fact that the Council of Guardians of the Constitution has ratified the correctness of the elections—on the basis of letter No 789 dated 11 Mordad 1368 [2 August 1989]—and the credentials of the named person has been issued by the council, therefore, in implementation of Article 83 on the presidential elections, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin his Eminence 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani—president-elect of the Iranian nation—is hereby introduced to you, while presenting his credentials for confirmation.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Interior Minister The confirmation of the Council of Guardians reads: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The Council of Guardians confirms the credentials of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, son of 'Ali, with birth certificate No 308 issued in Bahraman, born in 1313 solar hegira calender [year starting on 21 March 1934], in the presidential elections which were held on 6 Mordad 1368, with a decisive majority of 15,551,570 votes from 16.454,387 [figures as heard] elected as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Signed by the members of the Council of Guardians: 1) Mohammad Emami-Kashani; 2) Ahmad Jannati; 3) Abolqasem Khaz'ali; 4) Mohammad Mohammadi-Gilani; 5) Mohammad Mo'men; 6) Mohammad Yazdi; 7) Gudarz Eftekhar-Jahromi; 8) Hasan Ebrahim Habibi; 9) Ahmad 'Alizadeh; 10) Mohammad Reza 'Alizadeh; 11) Hasan Fakheri; and 12) Hoseyn Mehrpur.

The text of the confirmation of the votes of the nation by our illustrious, great, and beloved leader His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the man of struggle and source of religious emulation, may his blessings continue:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Praise and thanksgiving to a bountiful God who, with his special favors, guided and assisted the great Iranian nation during the ups and downs in the past 10 years of the revolution, and who, with his powerful hands, protected the revolution and the Islamic system from the evils of the world, the mischief of satans, the deceits of the deceitful and cheats, the conspiracies of the hypocrites, the infiltration of the hostile individuals, the armies of the ossified [reference to ultra-conservative clergy], the ambitions of the politicians, and the murmurings of the tempters; who, as a result of the prayers of the great remnant of God, may our souls be sacrificed for the dust of his feet, turned the fire of plots to coolness and peace for this pious and brave nation and defeated powerful enemies, and day by day revealed further signs of his assistance through the steadfastness, maturity, and awareness of a wakeful, alive, and struggling nation.

Limitless praise to God who bestowed his pure life to a nation who welcomed His Eminence Ruhollah [Khomeyni] as its dear life, as the result of whose guidance and leadership the banner of pure muhammadan Islam, God's salutations and blessings be upon him and his kin, and the velayat of 'Ali and Husayn [first and third Shiite imams] was unfurled; who turned the amazed eyes of the world toward him and who revealed the signs of the victory of the oppressed in his eventful career; and who after the death of this nation's imam and the passing of its dear life toward the exalted presence strengthened its heart and illuminated its path and fortified its will and determination in continuing its path.

Now, after the passage of two complete presidential terms which, despite all those difficulties and the conspiracies of the enemies, has been spent for the well-being, benefit, glory, and greatness of Islam and the Muslims, the valiant, steadfast, and faithful nation acted according to the will and testament of its late illustrious imam. In the first test, at a time when Islam's sworn enemies hatched many plots and pinned many hopes upon this time, the nation caused the amazement and wonder of the world. And with its massive and tumultuous presence destroyed the foundations of the enemies' evil hopes, and through complete and peerless knowledge, understanding, and freedom took part in the elections in which the role of customary propaganda had reached its lowest possible level. The nation confirmed its convenant with God in rejecting the worship of the devil, and reaffirmed its vow with the prophet of God in safeguarding the two mighty things [the Koran and the imams], and acted in accordance with its commitment toward the imam and the revolution in maintaining its unity of expression, the word of monotheism, and steadfastness until the establishment of justice. We thank God that the dear nation's determination and votes has placed the heavy burden of God's trust and divine responsibility upon the powerful shoulders of a great man from the sons of Islam and the disciples of the illustrious imam, a crusading religious scholar ['alim], a jurist [faqih] learned in the knowledge of Islam, a wise politician, and a sympathetic and experienced manager; a person whose record of efforts in the path of God and his struggles for the sovereignty of religion and the ascendence of the name of Islam started even before the first days of the Islamic revolution; a person who has a record of many harships, difficulties, and matchless activities; a qualified character who as the result of moving on the straight path of the revolution has always been a confidant of the imam and beloved of the nation and, God willing, will continue to be so in the future, too.

Without doubt this is a great gain that together with the amendments to the Constitution which provide the basis for the proper administration of the country, the executive management of the country has been placed in the powerful hands of a person such as the president chosen by the nation. It is hoped that, as is expected by the appreciative and intelligent people of our country, God's blessings and bounties will open the path for the removal of difficulties and the implementation of the aspirations of the revolution.

While again offering my thanks for the open and hidden blessings of God almighty, exalted is his glory, following the votes of the great nation and with my familiarity with the status and position of the sincere comrade of the imam and the outstanding character in the order of the Islamic Republic, and its powerful arm and eloquent voice, His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, may his blessings continue, I confirm the votes of the people and appoint him as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [chanting of slogans by those present].

It is clear that this vote and this confirmation will be in force as long as he continues in the same straight and luminous path on which he has so far spent his noble life, namely the path of defending the pure Muhammadan Islam, may God's salutations and blessings be upon him and his kin, and struggling for the complete implementation of the Koran, and acting in accordance with the shari'ah and supporting the deprived and the oppressed, and attempting to eradicate poverty and deprivation, and the establishment of social justice; and, of course, it shall be so.

In conclusion, I call upon the esteemed president and those who will have the opportunity of cooperating with him in the administration of the country to observe

piety, the continuous remembrance of God, proper behavior, contact with the people, especially the weak and deprived masses who are the true owners of the revolution and its ever-present soldiers, and paying due attention to the glory and greatness of Islam and the political, economic, and cultural independence of the Islamic Republic in the conduct of foreign relations. I also call upon the dear nation to provide full cooperation and support to these sincere and capable officials. I have complete hope and trust that through the unity of expression of the nation, and sincere efforts of the officials and the mass movement of all of the nation in helping and cooperating with the officials, this great nation will be able to achieve all its major aspirations, and to bring despair to the evil enemies, and to ignite the light of hope in the hearts of all oppressed nations of the world. He is the source of all support. [Koranic verse] God's greetings and blessings be upon you.
[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i
[Dated] 30 Zil-Hijjah 1409 [3 August 1989]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks to God and greetings to his prophet and his scion. [passage omitted] This is an important moment for me. This is a scene which creates two contradictory feelings inside me. I am certain most of you feel the same. On one hand we feel sad and depressed because close to the empty and blessed seat of his eminence the imam of ummah—our guide, our teacher, our spirit, our life, our source of emulation, and the source of the greatness of Islam and our nation—we are performing ceremonies which, when I was preparing myself for candidacy of the presidency, I never believed I would not receive my decree from his hand. [Hashemi-Rafsanjani and audience weep]

In a small way, the only solace is the fact that I heard the report and the content of the decree from the voice of the imam's legacy, my very dear brother, my comrade in arms during the period of oppression and the sincere colleague during the time of administering the country, the self-sacrificing friend of his excellency the imam. And yet, this is also somewhat sad.

This is one side of the scene. The other feeling which exists in my being is the greatness and glory of this scene in which great clerical, political, and social personalities—revolutionary forces of the revolution—are present. They are present among an audience in which every single person is dear and respectable to me. And they are also dear to the great nation who is watching these ceremonies.

I hear words about myself from a person to whom I feel the maximum respect on the planet earth today—these words assure me of hope and good performance of the affairs. What has been written by the pen of the revolution's great leader in this confirmation about myself is what I personally know I do not deserve. But I am sure that he does not write anything which is against his convictions; so he has expressed attributions to me with conviction—attributions which are beyond my limitations. And these provide great spiritual support for one who intends to be in charge of the country's executive affairs. It is a great spiritual support because he can feel that the source of the legitimacy of his office and his guide has such thoughts about him. I am sure that in the expression of his views he has not indulged in exaggeration; although in my own view he has attributed to me things much more lofty than I deserve.

In this ceremony we miss the presence of the martyrs of the revolution. Everything we have here demonstrates our indebtedness to the struggle, self-sacrifice, greatness, and pioneering of the martyrs, the disabled, and the missing in action and the prisoners—who are all heroes and freemen—as well as their enduring and patient families.

It seems that divine fate has so decided that I take over my responsibility as the country's executive manager when I am in the service of a leader with whom I have spent almost all my social life. I shall try to create the necessary preparedness. The history of my cooperation with the leader goes back 30 years or so. Luckily, when we recall these years we see that they are filled with sincerity, oneness, and shared feelings. It was almost 30 years ago, when I was attending the late Ayatollah Damad's lectures, that I was first acquainted with the leader's illuminating face. Before that I knew of him by name. Since then, until now when I am receiving the decree of my presidency from him, I see a long path of smoothness and brightness filled with cooperation, trust, and shared feelings. I pray that such a situation will continue until the end of our lives.

The days when we hid together in the villages around Mashhad as we were engaged in planning the struggle. Or when we worked together in safe houses in Tehran. Then there were days after the revolution, under the most difficult circumstances in running the country's affairs, when we were continuing our path and in complete unanimity we never hesitated for a moment to shoulder responsibility for continuing the path. In the future we see our path to be smooth thanks to the blessings of the efforts of his excellency the imam of the ummah and our great nation. We never had anything in our minds but determination to revive the greatness of the Koran's culture and service to Islam as well as reviving the greatness of the victimized nation and the Islamic ummah. We will not follow any goal but this, God willing.

This is the bond which today, at this sensitive moment in history, I pledge to the dear ummah, in the presence of our great leader.

Another point which is of interest to me, which I cannot easily leave out, is the massive and deep trust which people feel toward the officials of the regime and those who have been continuously targets of the bombing raids of the propaganda warfare of news imperialism.

I have no doubt, not a bit, that the people voted for continuation of the path of the imam and the revolution and not for myself as a person. In the past I was one of the serious officials of the regime. That is my limit. If five members of the nation are to be held responsible in the future as accountable officials of the country, then I am precisely one of them. Therefore, the people did not vote for one who has come from a different place and who intends to set up a new institution. If it were otherwise, nobody could win the people's votes in such vast numbers. Contrary to the poisonous propaganda of news imperialism—which is trying to insinuate that the Iranian nation is hoping for a new era and that it has chosen a new path—I am sure that our people will not accept anything but that path which we have chosen, and it is the path of the Koran and of Islam. If we had seen any small deviation from the path of the Koran and of Islam in the past then we would not have cooperated in such a vast way, and nor would our people. Our nation will not accept anything but that path; and nobody must prepare himself for anything else. Fortunately, the interpreters of that path are present in the country. This is not the kind of path for which we may turn to this or that person for interpretation. [Shouts of "God is great"]

Those who interpret that path are those who have been present at the side of his excellency the imam from the first moments when the struggle began. They are the imam's disciples; they remained at the imam's side until the moment he closed his eyes. They have heard the interpretations and words of the imam in the privacy of his house or otherwise. They know what the imam intended and the imam also had repeatedly confirmed them as the interpreters of his line. And at the head of them all is the great leader, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i. [crowd chants for Khamane'i] It is what the imam most certainly desired. He left us sufficient documents to certify who is to continue his path. That was what we knew; among the experts some knew it and some were subsequently informed of it. Today we start a new chapter in executive responsibilities along a path which the imam determined for us together with an interpreter and a guide. Now we must march along that path—in new scenes. And there will be others in our place in other scenes.

I pray to God not to take away from us the blessing which he has given to us, that is, that we always tread on the path of Islam, the Koran, and perpetuating the path of our martyrs. Greetings to God.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Hoseyniyyeh Jamaran is where the history of our revolution during the last 10 years has been unfolded. It was in this place, and under this sacred dais that we have managed to pass difficult experiences during the last 2 years, setting out on our involvement in crucial stages of our revolutionary lives, and learning constructive lessons from the imam—our teacher and instructor. In sum, it was the place in which the people started their movements. It was in this place that we sought refuge from problems. It was from this place that we began our sensitive journey.

Today we grieve the loss of our dear, unique, and great imam. doubtless we are facing a shortage and a significant vacuum. However, with the memory of that great man's steadfastness and spirituality, and with inspiration from his unforgettable lessons, today again we start a new journey and a new stage. In my opinion, today is an important day because it signifies the start of a sensitive and important stage. Of course, the propaganda loudspeakers of world arrogance and Zionism seek to inspire this thought among the Iranian nation as well as the world public opinion—and perhaps even some of the officials—that the Islamic Republic system has started a new stage with a new direction. Like all other thoughts propagated by the arrogant loudspeakers, this is both wrong and very stupid and foolhardy. If the new stage means deviation from the resolutely drawn lines by our dear imam—which are indeed the lines and paths of Islam and revolution, not going any further than them—this will never happen in our revolution. So far as alert hearts, responsible people, officials who are faithful and knowledgeable in Islam and imam [as heard] are present in this country, the United States and other enemies, the world's arrogants, the evil-wishers and monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] must take such a desire to the grave. [crowd chants upport]

The line that his holiness the imam drew for the revolution, according to which we have been moving together with the Iranian nation, is the path of greatness of Islam and Muslims. It is the path of defense of the deprived and the oppressed the world over. It is a path which has introduced the Iranian nation to the world as an alert and proud nation; ridding us from the image of a dead, backward, and dependent nation, transforming it to the most independent, active, and alert nation. It is a path which has brought out people's love and affection for Islam, making them carry out miraculous and unique sacrifices. This path constitutes our whole existence, our revolutionary and national identity.

Through God's blessing, with firmness, strength, and hope, with the same type of morale that the imam taught us during the period of the movement and the revolution, this line will—God willing—be continued. We are ready for consolidation of the path of the imam and the revolution; for sacrifices and round-the-clock efforts. May our blood and lives be sacrificed for that path. It is our fortune to live our lives within that path. There is no doubt about that.

However, one point needs the attention of the Iranian nation and officials. The point is that we are today starting a new chapter. We are a great and active family whose hope and strength comes from the father of the family. With his presence everyone relied on him—of course after God. Any problems which arose for the people and the officials, it was his artistic [as heard] and

effective fingers which untangled the knots. Whether in war, foreign policy, domestic issues, economic and social affairs, or in other issues, the hearts of the nation and the government were warmed by the knowledge that our great imam was present. This is the reality, that for 10 years we moved and acted in this way, managing the affairs of this country.

During the time that I have borne this prolonged responsibility from the initial days of the revolution, I used to remember over and over again this sentence by the lord of the faithful, may God's peace be upon him: [passage omitted] In times of war when things became difficult for us, the lord of the faithful graciously states, when we felt that we were weak in the face of the event, we would turn toward God's prophet and would take refuge in him. I would repeatedly remember this sentence of the lord of the faithful—may God's peace be upon him—and I realized that it applied to our own situation.

It happened so many times that we would sit down with our brothers, with the officials and exchange our views on various topics and events, and place the problem in a package [majmu'eh] and take it to the imam. And it was he who solved the difficulty—through his views, his strong determination. He was unique insofar as faith and reliance on God were concerned. God is witness to what I say—during my lifetime I have neither seen nor heard of anyone who was reliant on God to this extent and who turned always to God.

He used to solve the problems, untie the knots. Today, this father of the family is not among us. This person who was such a strong pillar, this person who provided us with peace of mind when we went to him with problems, this person is not here any longer. Just like any family which experiences a similar situation—when the father, the oldest member of the family is lost to them, each member of the family in their own turn acquires a new sense of responsibility. You can see when, sometimes, a 15- or 16-year-old who would, until yesterday, be preoccupied with playing or studying, and who did not feel that he had any responsibility—would today take on the look of the man in the house and feel that he should have a role in sharing responsibility in that house. He too, insofar as he can contribute, fills some of this void.

This is the characteristic of our new era, dear brothers—both officials and the nation. This nation must fill this void. This void must be filled through struggle, cooperation, kindness, strong solidarity, the people's continuous presence on the scene, full compassion on the part of all—the higher theologians and great men of Islam and various levels of our country—everyone and all of us should, with sympathy, responsibility, unity of word, preservation of the sovereignty of the system of the Islamic Republic and the centrality of this system [markaziyat-e in nezam] and by assembling round this pivot and surrendering in the face of the directions which have arisen from those same guidelines and those same principles which are in accordance with the interests of the country—it is with these things that we should be filling this void.

No doubt we do not see the loss of our great imam as the end of the path, nor do we regard his loss as the end of our mission or our hope. Not so! God's prophet departed from the temporal world and yet the Muslims' vast conquests are just beginning. God's prophet built a new great universal regime—it was a regime which enabled the Muslim community to demonstrate itself as the utmost power in the world for centuries after the death of the prophet. It was the most powerful social, economic, political, and military entity for centuries.

Were it not for the corruption afflicting the rulers who came centuries later to rule in the name of Islam, most certainly the movement's impact begun by the prophet would have continued for successive centuries until, perhaps, our day. But the the ruling cliques' corruption closed the path.

Now we are able, after the death of the imam. [incomplete sentence as heard] Like God's prophet who was for 10 years and several months among his ummah, our dear imam who was the follower of the prophets' path, was among us for 10 years and several months. If we keep the same principles, lines, and rules at hand, in the true sense of the word and in a serious way, then we shall continue the path. Hopes have not come to an end; effort has not come to an end. With your efforts, with your determination, with all-embracing will and with sincerity—of the kind which our late leader gave us—we can continue the path in a very good manner and with speed.

I truly, and from the bottom of my heart, believe in the new management of the country. I have trust in it and hopefully see the day when, God willing, this competent, efficient, and revolutionary management will be able, with people's help, to unravel all the knots which now exist. It can pave the way.

Of course, it has been repeatedly said, and we repeat again, that the people must not expect miracles. I stress that lest people expect miracles. The country was at war for 8 years—if you truly look at it in fact it was at war for 10 years. The serving and caring officials who worked for the people during those 8 years had to grapple with various kinds of difficulties. Thus, they managed to maintain the country under acceptable conditions—relatively good conditions. I am not exaggerating. In the meantime, the problems arising from the war have not been removed; they have not ended. Some people think that as soon as the war is finished all its problems would disappear. No! The problems of the war must be removed after the war. Removal of a problem will take much longer than creating it.

A bomb hits a building, destroying it in a moment. If we intend to rebuild the same construction then we need a long time. So much destruction was created by war. So many resources had to remain idle. So many resources were ruined. So many problems created for the people. To make them good requires a long time. We must not hasten. There must not be too much demanding. It must not be insinuated that as soon as the government is formed all the problems will be solved in a short time.

Of course, problems will be removed—but in a reasonable and suitable length of time. Planning is needed. Efforts must be made. People must be helped to cooperate. Various kinds of initiatives are needed. Then, God willing, the problems will be removed.

I make the remark that the remedy for our problems lies in our success in placing the reconstruction of the country next to creating the necessary revolutionary spirit among the people. We must safeguard the revolution's strength. We must maintain the revolution's great and magnificent face. We must see these two side by side.

If we do not think of the country's welfare and reconstruciton most certainly the Islamic Republic regime cannot provide the desired example and experience for the world. If we drown ourselves in issues of overall welfare and provision of facilities, if we drown ourselves in issues of removing the problems in a way which may lead to our neglecting the revolutionary position, then we will have dealt a blow to the revolution's magnificence and imposing posture. In such a case we will impair the attraction of the revolution in the world. Most certainly, that would deal a blow to our efficiency. These two must be side by side.

Of course, in domestic and reconstruction issues, welfare and reconstruction and removal of problems are not the only subjects. In domestic affairs such things as social justice, general security, attention to the deprived and weak classes are also principal issues. Likewise, on a general level Islamic culture, Islamic morality, brotherly spirit, compassion, self-sacrifice, and other good characteristics must be observed.

We rely on God. God willing, the determination and efforts of the people and the officials will pave the way and solve the problems. God willing, the good prayers of the hidden imam, may our souls be sacrificed for him, will help us to go forward. We hope for the day when many of the aspirations of our great imam have been realized in our Islamic and revolutionary society is not too far away. Greetings to God.

Khamene'i Thanks Ahmad Khomeyni for Ceremony
LD0308192489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Following the Jamaran ceremonies confirming Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in a letter to Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, thanked him for his sincere efforts in that respect.

The text of the letter is as follows:

In the name of the almighty. Your excellency, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, may your blessings continue.

For the ceremonies confirming the president, which were held today in the immaculate Jamaran residence and which contained a special glorious moral and sincere atmosphere. I am dutybound to thank you; you are a dear and unique survivor of the late imam and of sincere assistance to his eminence. The honorable house of that leader and the old man of the Iranian people's hopes, is now, as ever, the source of emulation for hearts and loves and hopes. We hope it to continue in that way, God willing.

I, myself clearly felt the moral reflections of the imam's presence today. This great flourishment is due to the sincere efforts of your excellency, the light in that house of kindness. Once more I thank you and other dear members of that dear house.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i

[Dated] 12 Mordad 68 [3 Aug 1989]

Several Presidents Congratulate Hashemi-Rafsanjani
LD0308193289 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Hungarian President Bruno Straub congratulated Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as the fourth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. "The Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic joins me in extending sincere good wishes and felicitations to you," President Straub said in his message. He also pointed to the extensive mutual relations which are developing favourably in the interest of the two nations.

General Joseph Saidu Momoh, president of Sierra Leone also congratulated President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion. His message was handed over to the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Freetown Thursday.

President Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria in a similar message felicitated his Iranian counterpart and expressed hope for the expansion of cordial relations between the two countries.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi also congratulated President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election terming it "a proof of the Iranian people's trust to the leadership of Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani."

Several prominent Indian figures including prayer leader of New Delhi Jama' Mosque Mawlana Seyyed 'Ali Naqavi, professor Shasti and Dr. Majid Alikhan, writer of the novel "The Holy Verses" congratulated the new president.

Indian Official, Velayati Discuss Cooperation

LD0308182589 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Important regional issues and Tehran-New Delhi cooperation were discussed Thursday in a meeting between visiting Indian Finance Secretary G.K. Arora and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Arora is here to sort out differences on the Iran-India Kudremukh Joint Project according to which iron ore from Kudremukh Karnatak State in India is to be exported to Iran for use in the Ahvaz Steel Mill.

The Indian official presented a report to Velayati on the results of the talks between Iranian and Indian delegation on the issue.

Arora heading a delegation arrived here Monday at the invitation of Dr. Mahdi Navvab, deputy minister of economic and financial affairs to settle the disputes on Kudremukh issue.

Memo of Understanding Signed

BK0408042589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] India and Iran have sorted out the long-pending issue of Kudremukh. The finance secretary, Mr Arora, and the Iranian deputy finance minister, Mr Mahdi Navvab, signed a memorandum of understanding in Tehran yesterday after 3 days of intense discussions. The issue related to a loan extended by Iran in 1975 during the Shah of Iran's regime and the purchase of iron ore of the Kudremukh project by Iran.

Mr Arora also held discussions with the Iranian finance minister, Mr Iravani, during which both sides expressed the hope that sorting out the Kudremukh issue will pave the way for deeper economic and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

The AIR [All India Radio] Gulf correspondent, Jagmohan Mathur, understands that the agreement on this old issue came during the political mandate given by the leaders of the two countries.

Mr Arora, who has gone to Tehran as the prime minister's personal envoy, handed over a letter from Mr Rajiv Gandhi to the Iranian president, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The letter conveyed Mr Gandhi's congratulations to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his being elected the fourth president of Iran.

Loan Dispute Settled

LD0308182989 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Iran and India inked a letter of understanding on Tehran-New Delhi cooperation on iron ore mines of India's Kudremukh.

The letter was signed by visiting Indian Finance Secretary G.K. Arora and Iran's Deputy Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Dr. Mahdi Navvab Thursday.

The agreement ends a 12-year old dispute between the two countries on issues concerning Iran's 255-million-dollar loan to India in 1974 for implementation of Iran-India Kudremukh Joint Project.

Dr. Navvab said settlement of the dispute will pave the way for further expansion of Tehran-New Delhi economic relations and bilateral political cooperation.

In response, Arora termed the settlement as an end to an impasse which had caused unhappiness to both sides.

In a talk with IRNA, Navvab said the letter of understanding solved the differences on repayment of the loan and its interest by India's steel organization to Iran.

The agreement had been signed in 1974, but some differences appeared three years later which included purchase of concentrated iron ore from India, he noted.

Navvab said all Iran's claims will be repaid by the year 1993 and the Ahvaz Steel Complex will receive its needed raw materials from Kudremukh Mine within the next 15 years.

Arora heading a delegation arrived here Monday at the invitation of Dr. Navvab.

Factions Differ on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Cabinet

LD0308165589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Recent reports tell of severe clashes developing among various factions of the regime. These clashes concern the selection of the new cabinet members that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the post of the president, will choose.

At a time when some kind of agreement has been reached on the appointment of Musavi-Ardabili as the first deputy for Hashemi-Rafsanjani, rumors about pushing aside some of the hardliner ministers, in particular Interior Minister Mohtashemi, have spread extensively.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i are insisting on the eliminations of Mohtashemi, but Ahmad Khomeyni disagrees with that.

On the other hand, Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Ardabili would like the elimination of Foreign Minister Velayati, whom he calls Khamene'i's pawn in the cabinet.

Other reports tell that following Mohtashemi's remarks about the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd by Israel, Velayati has strongly objected to him and named his remarks as interference in the Foreign Ministry's affairs.

Nepal

India Urged To Discuss Trade, Transit Issues

BK0308152189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 3 (AFP)—Nepal reiterated Thursday its readiness to initiated a dialogue with India over a range of bilateral issues including trade and transit treaties, Chief Government Spokesman Radhe Shyam Bista said.

"We have urged the Government of India to make a constructive move so that fruitful negotiations can take place in an atmosphere of mutual good will and respect," Mr. Bista said. "India has not yet replied to our letter of June 26 regarding the talks which Nepal has offered to hold in Kathmandu at an early date at the level of foreign minister," he added.

The letter sent by Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya had suggested early talks on bilateral issues including the 1978 trade and transit treaties which expired March 23 leading to a virtual blockade of the border by India causing shortages in Nepal.

Despite the lack of a reply, the government had "communicated our willingness to accomodate any early date the Government of India may consider convenient," for the talks, Mr. Bista said.

In a statement to the National Panchayat (Parliament) Wednesday, Mr. Upadhdyaya said that as a firm believer in peace Nepal would "continue to make efforts to improve her relations with India."

Also Thursday state-run Nepal Radio said Indian customs officials at the Raxaul border point some 220 kilometres (140 mile) south of Kathmandu, had detained 200 tonnes of lentils due for export to Singapore saying the lentils might be diverted onto Indian markets. To ensure they were not diverted the Nepalese exporters were ordered to deposit security worth one and a half times the price of the goods, the radio said.

Following the expiration of the trade and transit treaties 13 of the 15 border crossing points were closed by India, but Nepalese agricultural produce was allowed to move freely, official sources said.

The two border points still open are Raxaul and Jogbani, some 380 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of Kathmandu.

At Jogbani Indian customs officials have continued to detain several Indian-registered trucks and oil tankers transporting chemical fertiliser, cement and essential goods into Nepal, for carrying excess diesel fuel, allegedly to be sold in Nepal where shortages have forced up the price of fuel.

Of the original 160 vehicles, 67 were released Tuesday after nearly 35 hours as they were carrying only enough fuel for the round trip, while 40 were allowed to pass Wednesday after drawing-off the excess fuel, Nepalese officials said, adding that the remainder were expected to be released Friday.

The constant detention of vehicles by Indian customs officers has discouraged private Indian transport companies from allowing their vehicles to be used to transport goods into Nepal, a senior official from the Nepalese Commerce Department said.

Pakistan

UNHCR Rejects Allegations of Drug Trafficking

BK0308130789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 3 (AFP)—The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Thursday rejected allegations of drug trafficking in Pakistan, an official statement here said. Refuting a Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB) report, it said the entire UNHCR group has been "erroneously associated with illegal activities" of drug trafficking in official vehicles.

The PNCB Wednesday announced that it had intercepted a UNHCR jeep carrying 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of heroin powder worth millions of dollars and arrested its lone occupant.

In a statement the U.N. agency said "the vehicle in question is neither owned nor administered by UNHCR or any other United Nations agency."

Without verifying the facts, "UNHCR and the entire group of the United Nations agencies have been erroneously associated with illegal activities," the statement said. The UNHCR cares for some three million Afghan refugees settled in Pakistan's border provinces.

The report, announced by the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP), said the PNCB and Pakistani customs agents seized the drugs on a tipoff that a UNHCR vehicle would be used to smuggle a large quantity of heroin to Punjab from the North-West Frontier Province, which borders Afghanistan. The heroin was to be smuggled for shipment abroad, the report said.

The raiding party intercepted the jeep at the highway town Hassan Abdal, 40 kilomtres (25 miles) north of here early Wednesday. According to the news agency report, the seized drug was concealed in secret cavities of the white Toyota jeep which had its original registration plate replaced with a fake one. The agency said the vehicle's Pakistani driver was arrested and charges lodged against two people in an escort car who escaped arrest.

A UNHCR spokesman said Thursday in an interview that the agency had disposed of its old vehicles in Pakistan and donated hundreds of them to relief groups. The spokesman did not rule out the possibility that the jeep could have been a discarded UNHCR vehicle or that smugglers could have painted it white to escape arrest by posing as U.N. relief workers.

Bhutto Interviewed on India, Afghanistan

BK2307103489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by M.K. Akber; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Akber] Let us begin with the most recent development in India-Pakistan relations. How do you assess the visit of our prime minister, which, as you know, was the first bilateral [visit] in almost 3 decades?

[Bhutto] We had a mini-bilateral in December [during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit in Islamabad]. But this was the first opportunity to have an exchange of views on a wide variety of issues and I think that some people have all (?sorts) of expectations of major changes between India and Pakistan. But Prime Minister Gandhi and I feel that the problems are quite complex and complicated and had grown over a period, a long period, and that it is important to move gradually toward a lowering of tensions. His visit provided us an opportunity to review the progress made by our defense, foreign, water and power, and home ministers earlier on and they say that exchanges at the high level are necessary every now and then to give a fresh impetus to what our aides are doing in the meantime.

[Akber] What you say is that reality has caught up with the optimism of December?

[Bhutto] I think expectations were extremely high in December, but if by reality one means intractability, then I think that is not correct. There has been some movement during these talks, and there have been movements even at the talks that were held last month between our aides, and the army authorities will be be meeting within (?days) to discuss the issue of Siachen and how to resolve it. Siachen, movement on it, is a very important issue.

[Akber] That, perhaps, is the most intractable of all the issues.

[Bhutto] Well, (?certainly) intractable, but I think with Siachen a flash point will be removed.

[Akber] What [words indistinct] in Siachen?

[Bhutto] On Siachen, we feel that if both countries redeploy in the spirit of the Simla agreement and then sit down to negotiate what the line of control is, then we can get the removal of the flash point.

[Akber] But there is nothing like the 1972 line in Siachen.

[Bhutto] Not the 1972 line, the positions of deployment. The forces are now deployed on the glacier itself, and it holds continuous prospects of renewed clash and [words indistinct]. Both sides agree that if their troops were redeployed, give up positions in the spirit of the Simla agreement, then it would reduce the threat of conflict and we would return to certain degree of normalcy. Then we could sit down and decide where the line of control is, because India thinks that line is one way, Pakistan claims it means another. These negotiations are going to be drawn out, so that [words indistinct] this progress be staggered by drawn-out negotiations, we felt it might be better to let the (?peace) process continue without prejudice to negotiations.

[Akber] [Question indistinct]

[Bhutto] Both countries agreed to this. I think this was a genuine feeling on both sides (?related) to a very hostile climate and many men fell victim, not just to gunfire, but the weather itself.

[Akber] Now, government-to-government negotiations and processes have been going on, but what have you two actually decided to help the people-to-people relationship develop between the two countries?

[Bhutto] Well, we want to [words indistinct] on the exchanges between the two countries, but again one needs some kind of a defusion of tension to enable that to take place. You have been to Pakistan yourself recently, and you can see that while there is a sincere hope amongst many that the relations between the two countries improve, there is also a lot of scepticism and suspicion. When [word indistinct] went to your country, they found the same thing.

[Akber] The important question seems to be whether there is scepticism within your government or within the power structure?

[Bhutto] I do not think there is any scepticism within the government or the power structure. It is felt that efforts must be made to improve peace and stability in the subcontinent and in the region. Yes, there are concerns and I have expressed this to the prime minister—concerns about the blockade of Nepal, concerns about the recent problems in Sri Lanka, and concerns of what

repercussions they could have subsequently on Pakistan. Now, it is good that we talk about these concerns. Communication and dialogue are extremely necessary to create a climate for solution.

[Akber] I think, perhaps, the prime minister, I hope he had convinced you that we do not have a blockade on Nepal.

[Bhutto] The prime minister did say that they are talking to Nepal and they are [word indistinct] and they are prepared to give the most favored nation status to Nepal. He did mention this to us. We are also in touch with Nepal. I know this is a bilateral problem, but if anything we could do in this connection to resolve it, we would be happy to do so.

[Akber] Is there a difference of opinion between you and the president on relationship with India?

[Bhutto] There is no difference. You see in a parliamentary structure, the president holds the ceremonial, the dignified part of the office and sovereignty rests in the parliament. So, really the president, the prime minister, and the government are all part of one power structure and you are familiar with the system that the president is always kept informed of the proceedings.

[Akber] Yes, but I said this because there is a minor controversy, at least, over raising the issue of the term that was used by the president, which is hegemony, Indian hegemony in the subcontinent.

[Bhutto] I still have not been sent any such remark by the Foreign Office. Although, I asked the foreign minister about it at a press conference. He has not seen the remarks either [words indistinct]. I think as I mentioned there are concerns arising about what role India wishes to play in the subcontinent and how this could affect Pakistan, but at the same time we in Pakistan hope that the process of normalization will create conditions of a different kind.

[Akber] How would you view our current policy in Sri Lanka?

[Bhutto] Well, the Sri Lankan situation is of concern to us because Sri Lanka is also a member of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries and Pakistan is currently the chairperson of SAARC. The Sri Lankans refused to attend the last SAARC conference and they are considering pulling out of SAARC altogether over the issue of the Indian troops being stationed there. So, we have discussed with them, the prime minister—indeed with delegation (?at large)—so that some sort of a solution or some sort of way could be found to keep SAARC because it provides a valuable forum for leaders to meet personally and to meet frequently and to be able to speak about what is bothering them, what is bothering the government, about all the answers they [words indistinct]. So, we are concerned about it in that way. But also, there are concern our people, amongst the government abou Indians are not leaving when the Sri Lankans them to do so. Without going into the merits o indistinct] effect, because Indian Governm that, well, there will be a bloodshed, people in our part of the world if a country [words in the president of a country requests them t whether it is good or bad for that country, pe should go.

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[Akber] [Words indistinct] of 60 million Tan side and there is a natural sentimental effect, i indistinct] of this common sentiment that very wise man called President Jayewardene us in the solution to the Lanka problem. (?W how much can we say that domestic pressure when you come to terms, or when try and con with India?

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[Bhutto] I see domestic pressure affects both c some degree. But I do not think domestic p overcome what are the defined goals and nat ests as pursued by a government. Certainly intend to let my opposition run the foreign p

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[Akber] You used a very good term, you will to parties in interest.

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[Bhutto] That's right. We do believe that nor is a worthy goal to be pursued and the fac difficult should not deter us. And we have that eventually our two countries can live in not only live in peace but make a better soci of our people.

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[Akber] But I can tell you one of our domesti which is, that despite your assurances, we that arms are still going into Punjab and to te more so, to Kashmir. There is also a repor know how credible it is, nobody knows—tha Zia had a liberate Kashmir plan in operation

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[Bhutto] I must tell you that the question Kashmir was never [words indistinct] in my is something totally [words indistinct] The the Sikh issue was mentioned and many different levels were made on this issue. W don't want to meddle in India's internal aff are not going to permit it from our own bord are equally sure that India would not permi ference within our borders. In fact, the Sikh plaining loud and clear that Pakistan is not erative any more. So we mentioned th government that we face a problem of illeg tion into our country and there are also appre our people's minds that some of these are tr ists. So perhaps the best thing is that proper can be worked out to control the kind of illegal—whether it is the Sikhs, whether it is

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of the border so that both of our countries can do the [words indistinct] made progress in terms of ground, border rules and will help them continuing to do so.

As far as the question of Kashmir is concerned, this has been disputed much on the side of India. The disputed part of Kashmir is disputed by the Muslims since 1947. The Kashmiris are articulate, they are educated, they [words indistinct]. And the Kashmir issue has led to three conflicts between India and Pakistan, too. So I think one can't say that it is born out of the weapons sent by Pakistan. It is really born out of a feeling by Kashmiris, whether they live in Azad Kashmir, whether they live in parts of Karachi, or Punjab, whether they live in England or Canada, about their own rights. We have a position on Kashmir that we don't want to settle this in any other framework than that provided by the Simla agreement. And we keep stressing the Simla agreement because it is the one which has given our subcontinent the most durable peace for 17 years and that's why it is an agreement worth preserving.

[Akber] Madam, your mother is Kashmiri, full Kashmiri.

[Bhutto] Are you Kashmiri?

[Akber] My mother is, yes, and some Sikh, but I am absolutely certain that what you said about some secessionist elements being unhappy with you. But, are you so sure that they are still unhappy with Mr Nawaz Sharif?

[Bhutto] Well, I mean, there are always different views in a country and you have had democracy for a long time so you must know that dissent is as old as civilization and will continue to be so. Although, I think that my opponents are more keen to use the Sikhs against me than they are to use them against India at this time. [laughter]

[Akber] You [words indistinct] and I personally would agree very much with that. But one question I always wanted to ask your father and Mr Rajiv Gandhi's mother—tragically both martyred now—how did he react when he came back after Simla and the domestic conservative elements began to put pressure on him for having, as they say—quote, unquote—sold out to India?

[Bhutto] Well, I remember that the Simla report that Mrs Gandhi had reviewed about the [words indistinct] of approach and they said they were unable to see the issues in the historic perspective but so could grasp at this present moment, which must not be lost, and he said that she proved in every sense that she is Nehru's daughter in that particular moment. With sheer opportunities like these and small minds cannot offend [words indistinct] and he felt also that we did not get the Indian narrow considerations, but need a much larger quest for peace on which [words indistinct]. As far as our opponents are concerned, I remember even General Zia [words indistinct] that there were secret clauses in the Simla agreement. But, of course, as soon as the borders hotted up, he forgot about that and he suddenly started talking about the Simla agreement. So what happens today can tomorrow [words indistinct] agreements.

[Akber] Do you see and [words indistinct] and what Mr Junejo says [words indistinct].

[Bhutto] Perhaps, I think, I [words indistinct] many returns to what they adhere.

[Akber] Madam, what is it that has enabled you to come this distance with Mr Rajiv Gandhi and has prevented a similar situation developing when President Zia and Mr Junejo were in power? Is it a personal trust, I imagine?

[Bhutto] Well, we had never met before December. But, I think that it was the sign that democracy had returned to Pakistan, that there was a representative government. And whether it is one country or another, we have seen greater respect for Pakistan since the restoration of democratic rule. And perhaps because both of us had also been born into political families and being well aware of our countries' pasts that we could talk to each other.

[Akber] Madam, were you disappointed when the siege of Jalalabad failed?

[Bhutto] Jalalabad was...[Bhutto changes thought] Everyone thought now the Russians have gone, the city must fall. But the reason that the mujahidin succeeded in getting the Russians out of Afghanistan was not for the cities. Remember, they kept telling that the cities [words indistinct] that it was a guerrilla warfare, local commandos intercepting supplies, sniping. That situation continues to this day.

In fact, there were some assessments which were made, but the basic assessment by our own security agencies and indeed, those of other countries—the need firstly for a quick collapse. I don't think parties were interested in imposing any embarassment to the Soviets who were withdrawing at that time through a quick collapse. It is a pity that a political settlement seems to depend so much on what the military situation on the ground will be because then that forces the mujahidin to no other course, whereas countries like Pakistan are anxious to promote a political settlement. I believe the Kabul administration is not very happy with Pakistan [laughter] to say the least, but we really feel that [words indistinct] of Pakistan.

We have got 3.5 million refugees and they are not going to go back unless there is a government which can give stability. And obviously, the present administration can only give civil war because it is not a broad-based one to incorporate the different segments of the Afghan population and it is not possible for us to accept a system which fans civil war. We have talked to the mujahidin. It is not possible for them to accept an administration

which has been associated with occupation and atrocities. Now somebody like myself, I don't understand why because of this whole [word indistinct] so many people must die because if the resignation of the hardliners does lead and pave the way for a political settlement, then surely the dictates of one's own conscience, the dictates of suffering humanity, demands a settlement should be found.

[Akber] But would you rule out Mr Najibullah's involvement with these talks at all?

[Bhutto] You see, it is not me that has to talk to him. It is the mujahidin who have to talk to him. And nobody talks to him—neither King Zahir Shah, nor the Pakistan mujahidin, nor the Iran mujahidin, nor the prominent exiles, nor the prominent commanders. I am only concerned that if there is a government there which just plans civil war, what is going to happen to the 3.5 million refugees who are temporarily our responsibility? So, that is why we are keen to promote a political settlement. But it seems that a few individuals are insisting on clinging to power.

[Akber] A side question, did Mr Hamid Gul lose his job because of Afghanistan or because of India?

[Bhutto] Oh, I think that that had nothing to do with India and indeed, he was the head of an agency which coordinated closely with the Afghan resistance and gave us a political [word indistinct]. But it was normal transfer. Army officers when they are promoted to a different rank have different responsibilities, and when he was promoted by this government to lieutenant general, it was just a matter of time before he went to take on his professional duties associated with the promotion.

[Akber] Madam, I know you are very pressed for time and I think we have already over extended the hospitality, but a personal question to end with, and that is, how do you reconcile your role of a mother with your work as prime minister? Does Dilawar suffer...

[Bhutto, interrupting] I hope Dilawar doesn't suffer. I hope my work does not suffer either. I love being a mother, I love having a little son, and especially at that age. He is now 10 months old, and it is a very interesting age. I remember [words indistinct]. But I found that he is so sharp. Well, as my mother says: Every mother thinks her child is the best. I do miss him when I have to go on trips. But he is well adjusted and he is very good natured. And he is growing up fine.

[Akber] Will you give us one last promise that you will bring him when you come to India?

[Bhutto] Oh, I will try to do that. [laughter]

[Akber] Finally, when will you come to India?

[Bhutto] Well, I was hoping to be able to come in August in connection first with the SAARC job, and then staying on as part of an official trip. Now we don't know how the SAARC is going to pursue. So a lot depends on the present trip our foreign minister is taking to the different capitals. But, irrespective of that, I would like to come sometime this year.

[Akber] Soon?

[Bhutto] Soon.

[Akber] Thank you very much, Madam.

[Bhutto] Thank you so much.

Paper Welcomes Accord With Sri Lanka on IPKF

BK0308132389 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 89 p 9

[Editorial: "IPKF: Good Sense Prevails"]

[Text] After weeks of acrimonious exchanges, good sense has prevailed in New Delhi and Colombo. The Indian and Sri Lankan governments have reached a preliminary understanding on the controversial peacekeeping force (IPKF) [Indian peacekeeping force]. India began withdrawing 3,000 to 4,000 of its troops from the island state on Saturday [29 July], the deadline set by the host Government. This is, of course, a token pull-out. The detailed time-table for the total withdrawal of the 40,000 IPKF is to be worked out through negotiations in New Delhi which may get underway by the time this appears in print. But even this gesture of goodwill has gone a long way in defusing the crisis which had threatened to assume the form of a military showdown. India's refusal to withdraw by July 29 and Sri Lanka's warning that it would forcibly evict the IPKF or confine it to its barracks could have led to a serious confrontation between them. Now that they have agreed to a phased withdrawal, tempers on both sides can be expected to cool down. In fact, the two countries are once again talking of their 2,500-year-old friendship. A negotiated withdrawal should, in a way, be in Sri Lanka's interest. It should minimise the chances of intra-Tamil conflict in the North-eastern Province. Any worsening of relations between Colombo and New Delhi would have accentuated the hostility between the anti-Indian Tamil Tigers and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], the Tamil group which has cooperated with the Indians in implementing the 1987 accord. By committing itself to an agreed timeframe for the withdrawal of its troops, India will strengthen President Premadasa's position vis-a-vis the militant JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna]. Given the climate of political opinion in Sri Lanka, India must not now prevaricate on the question of withdrawal. The New Delhi negotiations should be treated as a good occasion to draw up a timetable for a speedy withdrawal. This is important, especially if the Indian forces are not to outstay their welcome and cause unnecessary tension and misunderstanding. India must

avoid creating an impression that as the biggest power in the region it wants to impose its will on its smaller neighbours. The induction of the IPKF into Sri Lanka was affected under a freely negotiated accord between two sovereign States. Likewise, the withdrawal must also be arranged on the basis of mutual agreement between them.

The defusing of the present tension will have a positive effect on the peace and stability of the region. The Indo-Sri Lankan dispute had cast its dark shadow on regional cooperation. SAARC's [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's] Foreign Ministers' conference which was to have been held in Islamabad in June had to be called off at the last minute on account of Sri Lanka's refusal to attend as a mark of protest against India's negative stand on the question of troops withdrawal. Hopefully, the meeting will now be convened in the near future. It is important that all channels of communication between the South Asian neighbours are kept open. While this is essential to promote matters of multilateral interest, it will also enable bilateral issues to be discussed informally.

Quiet diplomacy can always help even if it does not in all cases produce instant results. For instance, in this case the Pakistan Foreign Minister's visit to Colombo and New Delhi to smooth out matters has proved remarkably helpful. The possibilities offered by this mode of diplomacy and behind-the-scenes contacts and exchanges at SAARC meetings should be utilised more effectively to create a better climate of trust and understanding in the region.

Government Accused of Accepting Indian 'Hegemony'
BK3007125489 Karachi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 20 Jul 89 p 10

[Editorial: "Rajiv Gandhi's Visit—The Debate Goes On"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has denied the allegations that her government has accepted India's hegemony. To substantiate her assertion, the prime minister has forwarded a logic which can be divided into two parts. The first is her claim that her government—which is democratically elected and enjoys the support of the people—is so strong and stable that the question whatsoever of its bowing before any foreign government does not arise. The second part is a sort of counteraccusation in which the prime minister has alleged that predecessors of those now leveling such allegations against her government had themselves accepted India as a big brother, awarded medals to Morarji Desai [former Indian prime minister], and took pride in establishing close relationships with Indian film actors and their families.

It is not known what objective the government wishes to achieve by playing up the weaknesses of the previous governments. It is a historical fact that no Pakistani had supported and appreciated the way the former president [Ziaul Haq] had humbled himself before India through his cricket diplomacy. The former president had always been the target of criticism for his policy vis-a-vis India, and because of this popular pressure he could not settle any issue with that country.

In fact, now the Pakistani people are so conscious that whenever an issue of national interest arises, they make decisions rising above party politics. Therefore, if today they feel that the present government is bowing before India, they will rise above their political loyalties and stop supporting the government. And, hence, the prime minister's assertion that her democratically elected government is strong and stable because of popular support holds no water.

Even though the prime minister's party has representation in all four provinces, it was able to form a government in only two provinces. Even the Sind Province, where her party got an absolute majority, is in no way under the control of the government. There is a confrontation between the federal government and the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA] in the largest province of Punjab, which is draining energies of both the federal and the Punjab governments. Because of this, the prime minister and her government are becoming gradually weaker.

If, against this background, the prime minister is not really ready to accept India's hegemony, she will have to make herself stronger; and this she can do by paying heed to suggestions, even carried by foreign newspapers, that her foreign visits cannot contribute toward ensuring stability inside the country. In order to strengthen her position within the country, the prime minister will have to first resolve the problems of her "native" province—Sind—and to make the presence of her government felt there. So long as Bhutto's government is unable to control the Sind situation, the claim about her government's being strong does not hold good. Likewise, the IDA and the PPP [People's Party of Pakistan] should reach a compromise by pursuing the policy of "live and let live," so as to put an end to the factor of unrest and weakness and to run the affairs of the country in accordance with the mandate given by the people.

Political quarters have given negative reactions to Rajiv Gandhi's Islamabad visit. A former prime minister says that Rajiv Gandhi's attitude at the joint news conference was not only aggressive and insulting but also not in keeping with the status of a distinguished guest. Rajiv Gandhi said boldly in front of the Pakistani prime minister that there cannot be a plebiscite in Kashmir and that Pakistan's nuclear program is under the control of the military. The former prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, has rightly advised the government to keep in view national honor and dignity while dealing with India in future. The government should accept this advice in the interest of the nation and the country, and

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Sri Lanka

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Strike Protests Continued Indian Presence
BK0308113489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 3 (AFP)—An anti-government group called Thursday [3 August] for a general strike in Sri Lanka Friday to protest against the continued presence of some 45,000 Indian troops in the island nation.

Posters put up by the radical Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) appeared in various parts of Colombo, asking people not to go to work and to keep shops and businesses shut Friday, witnesses said.

Transport services have been asked to join the strike and owners of private vehicles told to keep off the roads, witnesses and residents said.

Similar handbills were also distributed in Colombo and its outskirts in a clandestine manner during the day by the JVP, residents reached by telephone said.

There was no immediate confirmation of the strike call from the military or police officials.

The protest appeal came as Sri Lankan and Indian officials ended talks in New Delhi without reaching definite agreement on the troop pullout and on the implementation of a July 1987 bilateral peace accord which sought to end the island's bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

The JVP, which is active among the country's majority Sinhalese community, opposes the Indian military deployment under the 1987 accord, which it calls a sellout to "Indian imperialism."

Since the agreement was signed, the JVP has been blamed for hundreds of killings, chiefly of government officials, politicians and security personnel in its bid to oust the government.

During a JVP-sponsored "curfew" last week, hundreds of people took to the streets chanting anti-India and anti-government slogans. Security forces opened fire on the protestors in several towns, killing more than 130 people.

The JVP is widely believed to be responsible for the July 25 ambush of an Indian Army patrol in a Sinhalese-dominated area in eastern Trincomalee in which 18 soldiers were killed.